

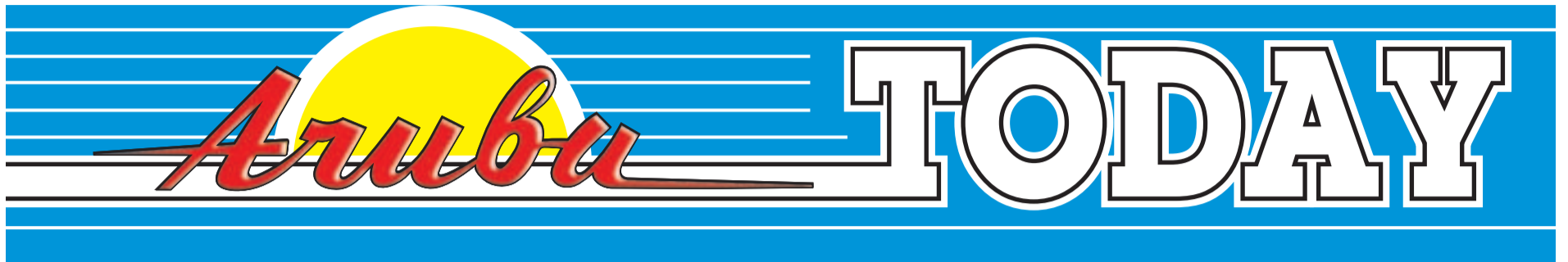
PRICE OF BLUEFIN TUNA TUMBLES AT TOKYO AUCTION

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FROZEN WILDCARD WEEKEND FULL OF HOT NFL ACTION

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, January 6, 2014

1 Killed, 2 Injured In Colorado Plane Crash



Emergency crews work near a passenger plane that crashed upon landing at the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport in Aspen, Colo., Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/The Aspen Times, Leigh Vogel)

ASPEN, Colorado (AP) — One person died and two people were injured when a plane crashed at the Aspen airport Sunday afternoon, Colorado authorities said. Three people were aboard the plane Sun-

day, said Thomas Wright, a dispatcher with the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office. One person was injured severely and another suffered non-serious injuries, he said. Ginny Dyche, a spokeswoman for Aspen Valley

Hospital, said the facility admitted two patients who were involved in the crash. She said they were still being evaluated, but she declined to release any other information. A Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration spokesman said the aircraft appeared to be a Bombardier Challenger 600, a midsize private jet. FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said the plane was headed from Tucson, Arizona, and crashed upon

landing.

Other details of the fiery crash weren't immediately available.

Aspen is located in the Rocky Mountains about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Denver. □

Below-zero temps push into US Midwest, Northeast

CHICAGO (AP) — Snow-covered roads and high winds created treacherous driving Sunday from the Dakotas to Michigan and Missouri as residents braced for the next round of bad weather: dangerously cold temperatures that could break records across much of the U.S.

Temperatures were being suppressed by a "polar

vortex," a counterclockwise-rotating pool of cold, dense air that will affect more than half of the continental U.S. throughout Sunday and into Monday and Tuesday, with wind chill warnings stretching from Montana to Alabama.

The forecast is extreme: 25 below zero Fahrenheit (31 below zero Celsius) in Fargo, North Dakota, minus

31 F (minus 35 C) in International Falls, Minnesota, and 15 below F (26 below C) in Indianapolis and Chicago. Wind chills — what it feels like outside when high winds are factored into the temperature — could drop into the negative 50s and 60s.

Northeastern Montana was warned Sunday of wind chills up to 59 below zero F

(51 below zero C).

"It's just a dangerous cold," National Weather Service meteorologist Butch Dye in Missouri said.

Several Midwestern states were walloped with up to a foot (30 centimeters) of new snow on Sunday. Five to 9 inches (12.5 to 22.5 centimeters) fell overnight in the Chicago area, while the St. Louis area had

about a foot (30 centimeters) of snow and northern Indiana had at least 8 inches (20 centimeters). Central Illinois was bracing for 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 centimeters), and southern Michigan could see up to 15 inches (37.5 centimeters).

Continued on Page 3

Election-year politics shape congressional agenda

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress returns to work Monday with election-year politics certain to shape an already limited agenda. Republicans intend to

data of those using federal and state websites to sign up for health care insurance, part of his party's effort "to protect the American people from the harmful effects of Obamacare." Republicans also promise

core Democratic voters crucial in low-turnout mid-term elections.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, said an extension of federal benefits for an estimated 1.3 million

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has scheduled a vote Monday night on legislation by Democratic Sen. Jack Reed and Republican Sen. Dean Heller to extend long-term unemployment benefits for three months.

However, Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer said he is unsure Democrats can cobble together the 60 votes needed to overcome a procedural hurdle to bring the measure to a final vote.

"If we don't get the 60, we will come back at this issue," he promised.

President Barack Obama already has scheduled a White House event on Tuesday with some whose benefits expired at the end of December.

"Instead of punishing families who can least afford it, Republicans should make it their New Year's resolution to do the right thing and restore this vital economic security for their constituents right now," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address. Republicans hinted they might go along with extending benefits if they win spending cuts from Reid elsewhere to pay for them. Rancor ruled in the first session of the 113th Congress with few bills passed and sent to the president to sign. □



House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Va., left, arrives for a meeting with House Republicans on Capitol Hill in Washington. Congress returns to work on Jan. 6, 2014, with election-year politics certain to shape an already limited agenda.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

focus on every facet of President Barack Obama's health care law. They see a political boost in its problem-plagued rollout as Republicans look to maintain their House majority and seize control of the Democratic-led Senate.

First up in the House of Representatives, according to Majority Leader Eric Cantor, is legislation addressing the security of personal

closer scrutiny of the administration's tally of enrollment numbers in the program.

Democrats will press to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour and extend unemployment benefits, trying to cast their party as more concerned with the less fortunate and intent on dealing with income inequality. The issues resonate with liberals, the

long-term unemployed Americans who saw their payments stopped on Dec. 28 is more than an economic issue.

"It's about real people, people with families struggling to put food on the table, to make ends meet, including ... 200,000 military veterans who are among these folks who are losing their benefits," he told reporters Friday.

Cruz hopes to 'soon' renounce Canadian citizenship

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Canada-born U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz has yet to renounce his birth country's citizenship as promised — but a spokeswoman says the conservative tea party favorite plans to finish the process soon.

Catherine Frazier, a spokeswoman for the junior senator from Texas, said Saturday that lawyers are preparing the necessary paperwork.

The 43-year-old Cruz "has been fully focused on fighting for Texans' values and interests in the Senate

for the last year," Frazier said via email. "He looks forward to the process being completed soon."

Cruz hasn't even been in office for a year, but already helped spark the budget fight over funding President Barack Obama's health care law that led to a partial government shutdown in October, and is being mentioned as a possible 2016 Republican presidential contender.

Frazier's response comes after Canadian immigration attorney Richard Kurland suggested Friday that the process was

relatively simple and quick. Kurland wondered what was taking Cruz so long.

Amid questions this summer about his eligibility for the White House, Cruz released his birth certificate in August to the Dallas Morning News and pledged to renounce his Canadian citizenship. Cruz said then that his mother had been told he would have to take affirmative action to claim Canadian citizenship — and the fact he automatically received it at birth was news to him. "If he's attempting to bring our system into disrepute

by suggesting it's lengthy and complex, it's just not true," said Kurland, who's based in Vancouver, British Columbia. "Revocation is one of the fastest processes in our system." The citizenship issue is a thorny one for Cruz, since some conservatives accused President Barack Obama of being born in Kenya rather than Hawaii and thus not eligible to be U.S. president. Obama is an American citizen; his father was Kenyan, his mother American, and he has released his Hawaiian birth certificate. □

Romney: Putin's Russia undercutting Olympic spirit

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's slide from democratic reforms and its relationships with international peers threaten to undercut the spirit of the Olympic Games it hosts next month, failed presidential nominee Mitt Romney said Sunday. Romney, who led 2002's Winter Games in Salt Lake City, said he also worried about security preparations but predicted Russia has done everything it can to prevent violence and to protect athletes at the Sochi games.

"I don't think any major global event that brings people from all over the world together like that can possibly escape the threat of violence," said Romney, whom Republicans picked to challenge President Barack Obama's re-election bid in 2012.

Twin suicide bombings left 34 people dead last week in the Russian city of Volgograd, just 400 miles (640 kilometers) from where the Sochi Games will be held.

No group has claimed responsibility for the bombings, but they highlight just how vulnerable the games could be to militant attacks.

Separatists seeking to carve out an Islamic state in the North Caucasus have mounted attacks across Russia for nearly two decades, following wars between separatist Chechen rebels and Russian forces.

"Russia has a special problem given the threats that have been leveled," Romney said.

"There's no question about it. It's very, very frightening to have any kind of Olympic event on your national soil," he added.

Romney's criticism of Russia is hardly new. During his presidential campaign, Romney called Russia "our No. 1 geopolitical foe."

Picking up that criticism. □

Below-zero temps push into US Midwest, Northeast

Continued from front

Officials closed several Illinois roadways because of drifting snow, and warned residents to stay inside. Roads in the Midwest were particularly dangerous, and officials in Missouri warned it was too cold for rock salt to be very effective.

Authorities also urged residents to check on elderly and disabled relatives and neighbors.

In Chicago, temperatures were expected to bottom out around minus 15 F (minus 26 C) overnight, likely setting a daily record, National Weather Service meteorologist Ed Fenelon said. Earlier Sunday, temperatures sank to 20-below F (29-below C) and colder in northern Minnesota and Grand Forks, North Dakota. In Wisconsin, Green Bay Packers fans packed Lambeau Field despite the dangerous cold for Sunday's National Football League playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers. It could be among the coldest ever played: It was 5 degrees F (minus 15 degrees Celsius) at kickoff at 3:40 p.m. CST, warmer than expected.

"We suited up, we brought all the snowboarding gear we use ... and added to it," said 49ers fan Jeff Giardinelli of Fresno California, as he walked across a parking lot with a friend. "Without the wind, which isn't here yet, we're good. When it gets windy, we'll be ready for it."

It hasn't been this cold for almost two decades in many parts of the U.S. Frostbite and hypothermia can set in quickly at 15 to 30 below zero F (26 to 34.4 below zero C).

Lorna West, a 43-year-old student and consultant from Columbus, Ohio, said she doesn't believe people unaccustomed to such weather are ready for what's coming.

A Chicago native, she said thermal underwear, lots of layers and "Eskimo coats" with zipped hoods to block the wind were the norm growing up.

"And don't go out if you



People wait for a bus at a bus stop in downtown Chicago on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. At press time, Sunday night temperatures were forecasted to drastically drop to about minus 20 degrees.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

don't have to," she said.

In St. Louis, grocery stores sold out of the essentials before Sunday's weather onslaught.

"The problem is the bread is sold out. We're out of milk. We sold out of chips, chicken wings, some meats," Issa Arar of Salama Supermarket said.

Travel problems started early Sunday. In New York

City, a plane from Toronto landed at Kennedy International Airport and then slid into snow on a taxiway. No one was hurt, though the airport temporarily suspended operations because of icy runways.

About 1,200 flights had been cancelled Sunday at O'Hare and Midway international airports in Chicago, aviation officials said,

and there also were cancellations at Logan International Airport in Boston and Tennessee's Memphis and Nashville international airports.

School was called off Monday for the entire state of Minnesota, as well as cities and districts in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa, among others.

Southern states were bracing

ing for possible record cold temperatures, too, with single-digit F highs (highs from minus 13 to minus 17 C) expected Tuesday in Georgia and Alabama.

Temperatures are expected to dip into the 30s F (single digits C) in parts of Florida on Tuesday. But Florida Citrus Mutual spokesman Andrew Meadows said it must be at 28 degrees F (minus 2 C) or lower four hours straight for fruit to freeze badly.

In western Kentucky, Smithland farmer David Nickell moved extra hay to the field and his animals out of the wind. He'd also stocked up on batteries and gas and loaded up the pantry and freezer. The 2009 ice storm that paralyzed the state and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people is fresh in his mind.

"We are hoping this isn't going to be more than a few days of cold weather, but we did learn with the ice storm that you can wake up in the 19th century and you need to be able to not only survive, but be comfortable and continue with your basic day-to-day functions," Nickell said. □

Plane slides off runway at JFK; no injuries

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A plane from Toronto slid into snow as it turned onto a taxiway after landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Sunday, halting flights at the airport for two hours and causing residual delays. "It could have been worse, a much worse scenario," Jordan Houlton told reporters after he emerged from Delta Connection 4100 along with 34 other passengers and crew members about 90 minutes after the slippery diversion of the CRJ2 aircraft.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said there was no immediate report of injuries after the plane landed safely at 8 a.m. (1300 GMT), only to lose its footing and slide into snow as it turned from the run-



A snowplow makes its way on a slushy patch between two terminals after a Delta flight from Toronto to New York skidded off the runway into snow at Kennedy International Airport, temporarily halting all air travel into and out of the airport, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in New York.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

way onto a taxiway. The plane was then towed to a gate with passengers on board, she said.

Houlton, a 27-year-old teacher in Mexico, said he managed to sleep through

the slide and didn't learn until later that the plane had skidded off course.

"I was sleeping. I woke up and it was 9:30," Houlton said. "A police officer came on to make sure ev-

everyone was OK. Luckily, everyone was OK. It was kind of wild. I still can't believe it."

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, said operations for domestic and international flights were suspended for about two hours because of slick runways, leaving passengers at crowded gates. Flights resumed after 10 a.m. (1500 GMT) on two of the airport's four runways, but residual delays for passengers were expected to linger. The landing came two days after a major snowstorm dumped a half foot (15 centimeters) of snow in New York City, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and stranding passengers both in the city and throughout the world who were heading to New York. □



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Fire at Manhattan high-rise leaves two critically injured

EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

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NEW YORK - A three-alarm fire in a high-rise apartment building west of Times Square on Sunday morning critically injured two men inside, fire officials said.

The fire was reported around 11 a.m. on the 20th floor of the Strand, 500 W. 43rd St., the officials said. Video from the scene showed flames and plumes of black smoke flowing out of windows in the building. Most of the fire was put out by 1 p.m., but firefighters continued to search the upper floors of the building for other residents who might have been affected by the smoke, the officials said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

One victim was taken to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell hospital, and the other to Roosevelt Hospital.

The fire spread smoke to the rest of the 20th floor and all the way to the roof of the 42-story building, said James Esposito, the Fire Department's chief of operations. Four other people were treated at the scene by emergency officials, he said.

At 1 p.m., smoke was still rising from the balcony where the fire occurred, and more than a dozen

Fire Department vehicles were outside the building. The Strand has an enclosed pool on the top floor, along with a nail salon, a Chinese restaurant and a bar and grill on the ground floor.

On Sunday morning, Nadja Atwal was at home with her 2-year-old son on

the 26th floor of the building when, she said, she smelled something foul, opened her front door and was confronted by a smoke-filled hallway.

"The hallway was completely black," Atwal said. "We opened the door to the stairway, and that was

where the smoke was most intense."

Atwal, her husband and their son went out on the balcony to get away from the smoke and ended up staying there in the cold for more than an hour, she said. "It seems unreal, but you have to do what you

can do," said Atwal, a publicist and fashion designer. "Our 2-year-old was the most calm of all of us." Eventually, firefighters arrived to check on Atwal and her family, telling them that the blaze was under control and to stay where they were. □



Flames and smoke emerge from the 20th floor of the Strand apartment building near Times Square, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014 in New York. Authorities say two people have been critically injured in the three-alarm high-rise fire. (AP Photo/Katherine Bourbeau)

Plane makes emergency landing on NY expressway

EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

ASHLEY SOUTHALL

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - A small plane made an emergency landing on the Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx this weekend, fire officials said. The plane landed in the northbound lane of the expressway around 3:20 p.m. Saturday afternoon, fire officials said. There was no fire and no fuel spilled.

Three passengers - a male pilot and two women - were able to leave the plane, police said. One of the women had a minor

head injury.

The passengers were taken to St. Barnabas Hospital with injuries that were not life threatening, officials said.

The plane departed from Danbury, Conn., on a tour around the Statue of Liberty, according to New York's Office of Emergency Management. On the way back to Danbury, the plane had an emergency on board.

The pilot was able to land on the usually heavily trafficked expressway because a crew of city work-

ers repairing potholes on the roadway had largely blocked off much of the traffic, creating a stretch of cleared lanes north of it, said workers at the scene. The workers said the plane appeared to have engine trouble and brushed tree-tops before landing.

No cars on the expressway were damaged during the landing, officials said. There were major delays on the expressway in the afternoon and evening as officials investigated the emergency landing. Officials said they had to

remove the fuel from the plane before they could move it from the scene.

The plane is a 1966 Piper PA-28, a small fixed-wing aircraft with a single engine, according to Federal Aviation Administration records. It is registered to Michael Schwartz in South Salem, N.Y. Bert Troche, 58, a highway repair worker for the city's Transportation Department, said he was on "pothole patrol" patching holes in the expressway caused by the snowfall Friday. Troche said the crew was using two large trucks

to protect themselves from the approaching traffic while repairing the surface of the traffic lanes.

"We took out the right and center lane, so the traffic was running slow, and then that gave him enough time to come down because he was coming down like this, and his motor went dead and he had to find a place to land," he said. Miguel Lopez, a supervisor for the repair crew, said the workers loaded the passengers into his truck to wait for emergency officials. □

Democrats press to restore unemployment benefits



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., left, accompanied by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., listens during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Reid promised a vote no later than Jan. 7 on a measure to extend jobless benefits for three months. He said the number of jobless people out of work for more than six months is far greater than in past economic recoveries. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Democrats continued Sunday to argue for restoring long-term unemployment insurance for more than 1 million Americans who are out of work, days after the benefits lapsed, as lawmakers prepared to return from their recess.

Gene B. Sperling, President Barack Obama's top economic adviser, said the program was critical to addressing the lingering issue of unemployment, providing emergency assistance for 1.3 million people who are still looking for work.

"That requires a full-court press," he said on the CNN program "State of the Union." "It does require more bipartisan effort to create jobs." Appearing on two Sunday talk shows, Sperling continued the Obama administration's push to restore the support system that provides up to 47 weeks of supplemental payments for unemployed

Americans who are still looking for jobs, a program that had been in place since 2008 until it expired last month. In his weekly address Saturday, Obama promised to sign legislation extending emergency benefits, calling the lapse in support for struggling Americans "cruel" and warning that it would be a drag on the economy.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, said Sunday that the current proposal to renew emergency unemployment benefits for three months needed the support of at least four Republicans in addition to Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada, who co-sponsored the bill, when the Senate returns Monday. Arguing that the majority of Americans support extending unemployment benefits, Reid called Republicans in Congress "out of touch."

"Republicans around America want us to do something to extend these

benefits," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "Why? Because it's good for the economy. It's good for the country." House Republicans, including Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio, have stipulated that any extension of unemployment benefits must be offset with spending cuts. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said on the ABC program "This Week" that he did not object to extending unemployment insurance as long as it was fully funded and done in a way that stimulated job growth, such as through tax breaks for areas with high unemployment. "I have always said that I'm not opposed to unemployment insurance," he said. "I am opposed to having it without paying for it." □

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Historic smoking report marks 50th anniversary

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Fifty years ago, ashtrays seemed to be on every table and desk. Athletes and even Fred Flintstone endorsed cigarettes in TV commercials. Smoke hung in the air in restaurants, offices and airplane cabins. More than 42 percent of U.S. adults smoked, and many doctors were among them.

The turning point came on Jan. 11, 1964. It was on that Saturday morning that U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry released an emphatic and authoritative report that said smoking causes illness and death — and the government should do something about it.

In the decades that followed, warning labels were put on cigarette packs, cigarette commercials were banned, taxes were raised and new restrictions were placed on where people could light up.

"It was the beginning," said Kenneth Warner, a University of Michigan public health professor who is a leading authority on smoking and health.

It was not the end. While the U.S. smoking rate has fallen by more than half to 18 percent, that still translates to more than 43 million smokers. Smoking is still far and away the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. Some experts predict large numbers of Americans will puff away for decades to come.

Nevertheless, the Terry report has been called one of the most important documents in U.S. public health history, and on its 50th anniversary, officials are not only rolling out new anti-smoking campaigns but reflecting on what the nation did right that day.

The report's bottom-line message was hardly revolutionary. Since 1950, head-turning studies that found higher rates of lung cancer in heavy smokers had been appearing in medical journals. A widely read article in Reader's Digest in 1952, "Cancer by the Carton," contributed to the largest drop in cigarette consumption

fensive that left physicians and the public unsure how dangerous smoking really was. Cigarette sales rebounded.

In 1957 and 1959, Surgeon General Leroy Burney issued statements that heavy smoking causes lung cancer. But they had little impact.

Amid pressure from health advocates, President John

were smokers, who puffed away during committee meetings. Terry himself was a cigarette smoker.

Dr. Eugene Guthrie, an assistant surgeon general, helped persuade Terry to kick the habit a few months before the press conference releasing the report. "I told him, 'You gotta quit that. I think you can get away with a pipe — if you

nation's escalating male cancer death rate. It also said there was no valid evidence that filters were reducing the danger. The committee also said — more vaguely — that the government should address the problem.

"This was front-page news, and every American knew it," said Robin Koval, president of Legacy, an anti-smoking organization.

Cigarette consumption dropped a whopping 15 percent over the next three months but then began to rebound. Health officials realized it would take more than one report.

In 1965, Congress required cigarette packs to carry warning labels. Two years later, the Federal Communications Commission ordered TV and radio stations to provide free air time for anti-smoking public service announcements. Cigarette commercials were banned in 1971.

Still, progress was slow. Warner recalled teaching at the University of Michigan in 1972, when nearly half the faculty members at the school of public health were smokers. He was one of them.

"I felt like a hypocrite and an idiot," he said. But smoking was still the norm, and it was difficult to quit, he said.

The 1970s also saw the birth of a movement to protect nonsmokers from cigarette fumes, with no-smoking sections on airplanes, in restaurants and in other places. Those eventually gave way to complete smoking bans. Cigarette machines disappeared, cigarette taxes rose, and restrictions on the sale of cigarettes to minors got tougher. Tobacco companies also came under increasing legal attack. □



In this Thursday, April 14, 1994 file photo, heads of the nation's largest cigarette companies are sworn in before a hearing of a House Energy subcommittee which was holding hearings on the contents of cigarettes on Capitol Hill in Washington. More than 40 states brought lawsuits demanding compensation for the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses. Big Tobacco settled in 1998 by agreeing to pay about \$200 billion and curtail marketing of cigarettes to youths.

(AP Photo/John Duricka)

since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 1954, the American Cancer Society announced that smokers had a higher cancer risk. But the tobacco industry fought back. Manufacturers came out with cigarettes with filters that they claimed would trap toxins before they settled into smokers' lungs. And in 1954, they placed a full-page ad in hundreds of newspapers in which they argued that research linking their products and cancer was inconclusive.

It was a brilliant counter-of-

F. Kennedy's surgeon general, Dr. Luther Terry, announced in 1962 that he was convening an expert panel to examine all the evidence and issue a comprehensive, debate-settling report. To ensure the panel was unimpeachable, he let the tobacco industry veto any proposed members it regarded as biased.

Surveys indicated a third to a half of all physicians smoked tobacco products at the time, and the committee reflected the culture: Half its 10 members

don't do it openly.' He said, 'You gotta be kidding!' I said, 'No, I'm not. It just wouldn't do. If you smoke any cigarettes, you better do it in a closet,'" Guthrie recalled in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

The press conference was held on a Saturday partly out of concern about its effect on the stock market. About 200 reporters attended.

The committee said cigarette smoking clearly did cause lung cancer and was responsible for the

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De Blasio holds open house at Gracie Mansion, his new home

MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM
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NEW YORK - Gracie Mansion, the buttercream-hued mayoral residence perched on a bluff overlooking the East River, has stood stately but mostly silent for 12 years, its elegant interiors reserved for the formal functions of a mayor, Michael R. Bloomberg, who chose to live elsewhere.

That quiet was replaced by a hubbub on Sunday, as thousands of New Yorkers lined up for hours on a bitterly cold afternoon for a rare tour of the mansion, culminating in a meet-and-greet with the man who will soon move into its halls, Mayor Bill de Blasio.

"We're excited to give New Yorkers a chance to see that which is theirs," the mayor said inside the home's first-floor library, where he was in the midst of a five-hour marathon of hugs, handshakes, back pats and high-fives.

After a populist message propelled him to City Hall, de Blasio has taken pains to project a theme of inclusiveness in his early days in office. Tickets to Sunday's open house, the final event of the mayor's inaugural itinerary, were distributed by lottery; a scalping market quickly emerged on Craigslist. Many dozens of volunteers and donors to de Blasio's campaign were also invited to attend.

The queue - filled with well-wishers from every city borough, and many who drove in from Long Island and nearby counties - snaked through the high-ceilinged ballrooms of the Federal-style mansion, out to its grounds and into nearby Carl Schurz Park, where it stretched nearly three city blocks along an East River promenade.

Staff members served cups of hot chocolate and apple cider to shivering well-wishers, some of whom waited more than two hours in the cold, as a roving band of guitarists and tambourine players, hired by the mayor's transition team, offered a folksy accompaniment.

Gracie Mansion had been open to tours, but those tickets often cost money. Many of those in line said they were lifelong New Yorkers who had never had a chance to be inside the mansion.

"It's not quite a once-in-a-lifetime deal, but it's pretty close," said Angelo Cucuzza, a union steward from Brooklyn who was waiting toward the back of the line with his wife.

It was never clear-cut that de Blasio, who turned his unglamorous Brooklyn row house into a symbol of his outsider campaign, would make the move to Gracie if elected as mayor. He and his family hesitated on the decision for weeks after his election.

On Sunday, de Blasio again reiterated his ambivalence about the move.

"This is just a sojourn," he told two Brooklyn residents, Rebecca Levi and Griffin Hansbury, as they posed for a photograph, pledging that he and his family would be visiting their

strategy, dating back to another outspoken populist, Andrew Jackson, who opened the White House to the masses after his inauguration in 1829.

The formal air of the man-

doesn't look like a place you would kick up your feet."

Later, de Blasio spoke with Shannon Graham, who said she was from Brooklyn. "The one true borough!"



New Yorkers, who applied for tickets online, wait to meet the mayor and tour Gracie Mansion in New York, Jan. 5, 2014. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio hosted an open house Sunday, concluding a week of inauguration events. (Damon Winter/The New York Times)

home borough "a lot." The notion of the "people's house," as de Blasio has taken to calling the two-century-old home, is a time-tested political

sion struck some attendees as incongruous with the de Blasio brand.

"I am wondering how they will adapt," said Levi, 43, a professional recruiter. "It

de Blasio proclaimed, his face lighting up. "This is your house," he told Graham as the flashbulbs went off. "It belongs to you. I'm just borrowing it." □

Senators differ sharply on penalty for Snowden

BRIAN KNOWLTON
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - A debate over whether Edward J. Snowden deserves lenience or the strict treatment the Obama administration has demanded for divulging a vast array of national secrets drew sharply opposing views Sunday from two prominent senators.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a libertarian-minded Republican, said he disagreed with those who have argued for the most severe penalties for Snowden, a former National Security Agency contractor. "I don't

think Edward Snowden deserves a death penalty or life in prison; I think that's inappropriate, and I think that's why he fled, because that's what he faced," Paul said on the ABC News program "This Week With George Stephanopoulos."

"I think, really, in the end," Paul added, "history's going to judge that he revealed great abuses of our government and great abuses of our intelligence community" by exposing the broad sweep of electronic surveillance by the NSA. Without directly suggesting some sort of bargain to lessen the

charges facing Snowden and perhaps pave the way for his return from exile in Russia, Paul said, "I think the only way he's coming home is if someone would offer him a fair trial with a reasonable sentence." But a leading Democrat, Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, took a directly opposing view.

"I disagree with Rand Paul that we should plea-bargain with him prior to him coming back," Schumer said. The senator appeared after Paul on the ABC program, where both men were asked about a New

York Times editorial about Snowden that cited "the enormous value of the information he has revealed, and the abuses he has exposed," and suggested that the United States offer Snowden a plea bargain or some form of clemency. Calls for leniency, which have also come from groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and from commentators at home and abroad, have been fueled by a federal judge's ruling that one of the surveillance programs Snowden exposed was probably unconstitutional. □

Fighting between Iraqi troops, al-Qaida kills dozens

**QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
SINAN SALAHEDDIN**

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi military tried to dislodge al-Qaida militants in Sunni-dominated Anbar province Sunday, unleashing airstrikes and besieging the

meanwhile, killed at least 20 people.

The recent gains by the insurgents have been a blow to the Shiite-led government — as sectarian violence has escalated since the U.S. withdrawal. U.S. Secretary of State John

Anbar — apparently taken by aircraft at night — was released by Iraq's Defense Ministry showing al-Qaida hideouts being bombarded. It showed men gathered around a vehicle, then running away as the site was struck.

linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which the government refers to as "terrorists."

The army and allied tribesmen also fought al-Qaida militants around the provincial capital of Ramadi on Sunday, two Anbar

tered parts of Ramadi. On Friday, troops bombarded militant positions outside Fallujah with artillery, a military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to release information.

The deadliest attack Sunday in Baghdad took place in the northern Shiite Shaab neighborhood, where two car bombs exploded simultaneously near a restaurant and a tea house. Officials say those blasts killed 10 people and wounded 26.

Authorities said a car bomb ripped through the capital's eastern Shiite district of Sadr City, killing five and wounding 10. Another bombing killed three civilians and wounded six in a commercial area in the central Bab al-Muadham neighborhood, officials said. Two other bombings killed two civilians and wounded 13, police said.

Medical officials confirmed the causality figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information.

Clashes have been taking place since Monday in Ramadi and nearby Fallujah, and the Baghdad bombings could be seen as an attempt by militants to distract security forces.

Earlier on Sunday, a senior Iraqi military commander said that it will take a few days to fully dislodge al-Qaida-linked fighters in the two cities.

Lt. Gen. Rasheed Fleih, who leads the Anbar Military Command, told state TV Sunday that "two to three days" are needed to push the militants out of Fallujah and parts of Ramadi. Fleih added that pro-government Sunni tribes are leading the operations while the army only is offering aerial cover and logistics on the ground. He didn't elaborate on the operations. "The quiet and safe life that is sought by the Anbaris will not be completely restored before few hours or two to three days, God willing," Fleih said.

Ramadi was a stronghold of Sunni insurgents during the U.S. war. □



Gunmen patrol during clashes with Iraqi security forces in Fallujah, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. Lt. Gen. Rasheed Fleih, who leads the Anbar Military Command, told the state television Sunday that "two to three days" are needed to push the militants out of Fallujah and parts of Ramadi. (AP Photo)

regional capital in fighting that killed at least 34 people, officials said. A series of bombs in Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad,

Kerry said Washington was "very, very concerned" by the fighting but would not send in American troops. Video of the airstrikes in

A ministry statement said the air force struck a militants' hideout overnight, identifying them as belonging to the al-Qaida-

government officials told The Associated Press by telephone. They said 22 soldiers and 12 civilians were killed, along with an unknown number of militants, and 58 people were wounded. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Clans inside the city of Fallujah have started to form brigades, they said, and some of the factions who fought the Americans following the U.S.-led invasion a decade ago say they do not want the Iraqi army to enter the city. There was no fighting inside the city on Sunday.

Government troops, backed by Sunni tribesmen who oppose al-Qaida, have encircled Fallujah for several days, and have en-

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Pope to travel to Holy Land in May amid peace push

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis says his upcoming trip to the Holy Land aims to boost relations with Orthodox Christians. But the three-day visit in May also underscores Francis' close ties to the Jewish community, his outreach to Muslims and the Vatican's longstanding call for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The announcement was made Sunday just as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry wrapped up three days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a new U.S. bid for peace. Francis told thousands gathered in the rain for his weekly Sunday blessing that he would visit Amman, Bethlehem and Jerusalem on May 24-26. It is the only papal trip confirmed so far for 2014 and the second foreign trip of Francis' pontificate, following his 2013 visit to Brazil for World Youth Day.

Francis, an Argentine Jesuit, will be the fourth pope to visit the Holy Land after Paul VI's landmark visit in 1964.

In his Christmas address, Francis singled out the Holy Land for prayers, saying "Bless the land where you chose to come into the world, and grant a favorable outcome to the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians."

As archbishop of Buenos Aires, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio — now Pope Francis — made interreligious dialogue a top priority, hosting an annual interfaith ceremony

in the Argentine capital's cathedral to promote religious harmony and writing a book on faith with his good friend, Rabbi Abraham Skorka.

"We are hoping for a new glimmer of light from this visit in relations with the Orthodox, with Muslims and Jews," Monsignor William Shomali, auxiliary bishop in Jerusalem, told Vatican Radio on Sunday.

All three governments welcomed the papal visit.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said President Mahmoud Abbas hoped it would "contribute to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people who aspire for freedom, justice and independence."

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Ministry Yigal Palmor said Francis was "will be greeted as warmly as his predecessors were."

Jordan's Royal Palace said the Amman leg of Francis' visit — on May 24 — would mark a "significant milestone for brotherhood and forgiveness between Muslims and Christians and consolidates the message of peace."

Francis said his prime aim was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting in Jerusalem between Pope Paul VI and the then-spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Atengora. Catholics and Orthodox have been divided since the Great Schism of 1054, precipitated largely by disagreements over the primacy of the pope.

Francis will be joined in



Pope Francis, framed by the adorned branches of a Christmas tree, delivers his blessing during the Angelus noon prayer he celebrated from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. Pope Francis announced Sunday that he would travel to Israel, the West Bank and Jordan on May 24-26, his first visit to the Holy Land and one that comes amid a new U.S. push for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

Jerusalem by the current ecumenical patriarch, Bartholomew, who became

the first ecumenical leader to attend a papal installation since the schism when

he traveled to Rome for Francis' inaugural Mass in March. □

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Report:

Many jobs in Europe go begging for skills

DUBLIN - Week after week, newspapers issue hopeful headlines: Microsoft, PayPal, Fujitsu and scores of other companies are expanding in Ireland, creating thousands of jobs

economist at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. "But we are seeing a worrisome skills mismatch that means a large number of unemployed people are

generate "significant economic and social costs," according to the European Commission, the policy-making arm of the European Union. In the United States, the

communications technology vacancies may go unfilled in the EU, the European Commission warned in a recent report on the digital economy. Governments and com-



A busy shopping street in downtown Dublin, Jan. 2, 2014. Across Europe, workers' skills are increasingly mismatched with available jobs, particularly as technology spreads through every sector of the economy, a problem that employers say has persisted in Ireland despite a government initiative to retrain workers and encourage the pursuit of degrees in mathematics.

(Paulo Nunes dos Santos/The New York Times)

as unemployment hovers near record highs. There is just one hitch: Not enough people are qualified to fill all the jobs. In some cases, the companies have had to look outside Ireland to recruit candidates with the right skills. After a five-year economic crisis, the mismatch represents one of the biggest problems facing Ireland and many other European countries. Hundreds of thousands of people who lost work, and many young people entering the workforce, are finding that their skills are ill suited to a huge crop of innovation-based jobs springing up across the Continent.

"In all countries, there is an expectation that many of the new jobs created will be in the knowledge-intensive economy," said Glenda Quintini, a senior labor

not well prepared for the pool of jobs opening up." Employers have long complained that graduates do not have the skills they need. But in a recent report, the International Labor Organization warned that "skills mismatches and occupational shifts have worsened" in Europe after the crisis. People laid off in hard-hit sectors, like construction and finance, face lengthy retraining, while too few graduates entering the job market have chosen engineering, science or technology degrees for the growing innovation-based jobs market. The gap in Europe has important consequences for the recovery as the eurozone grapples with unemployment rates stuck stubbornly above 12 percent. It may hold back a return to meaningful growth and

phenomenon has helped contribute to a rise in long-term joblessness, the organization said. About 2 million job vacancies around the EU are going unfilled, about the same number as in 2010, in sectors ranging from hotel work to computer programming, according to Eurostat, the statistics office of the EU.

A study released in November by Eurofound, the research arm of the EU, showed that despite the recession, almost 40 percent of companies reported difficulty in finding workers with the right skills, compared with 37 percent in 2008 and 35 percent in 2005. The problem is especially striking for innovation-based companies, which are generating jobs at a rapid clip. By 2015, about 900,000 information and

panies around Europe are fast-tracking efforts to retrain the unemployed for a burst of technology-related jobs. They are also stepping up campaigns to lure university students to mathematics, engineering and science.

In Ireland, the government introduced a series of retraining and higher-education programs and sought to polish the allure of mathematics degrees as alarm bells sounded over the issue a couple of years ago. At the time, unemployment was around 14 percent after an economic collapse that destroyed jobs in the construction sector.

Multinational technology and social media companies kept investing, lured by Ireland's ultralow 12.5 percent corporate tax rate and an English-speaking workforce. □

Ex-oil tycoon Khodorkovsky travelling to Switzerland

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Former Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky got a three-month Swiss visa and traveled there Sunday with his wife to bring their sons back to school, his spokesman said.

Khodorkovsky, who was pardoned by Russian President Vladimir Putin last month after spending more than a decade in prison for what many in the West considered trumped-up charges, has long-standing business ties to Switzerland. There has been speculation that the former head of the now-defunct Yukos oil company might seek to make a permanent home in Switzerland after telling reporters that he won't return to Russia for the time being. The 50-year-old Khodorkovsky flew to Berlin immediately after his release Dec. 20.

"The trip to Switzerland is for family reasons," spokesman Christian Hanne said in a statement. "Mr. Khodorkovsky hasn't made any plans concerning the question of whether he would like to permanently live in Switzerland."

Germany has given him a one-year visa. The three-month Swiss visa Khodorkovsky received allows him to travel freely within the 26-nation Schengen area, which includes Switzerland and most of the European Union but not Britain.

When Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, was prosecuted for tax evasion and money-laundering, Russian officials sought to seize about \$5 billion linked to Yukos that had been deposited in Switzerland. But Swiss authorities refused to hand over the money after concluding that the prosecution of Khodorkovsky was politically motivated.

"Mikhail Khodorkovsky is grateful for the clear position the Swiss authorities took during his many years in unjustified imprisonment," Hanne said. □

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Price of bluefin tuna nosedives at Tokyo auction



An employee of Kiyomura Co. cuts up a 507-pound (230-kilogram) bluefin tuna the company President Kiyoshi Kimura bought at the year's celebratory first auction, at his sushi restaurant near Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. Sushi restaurateur Kimura paid 7.36 million yen (about \$70,000) for the bluefin tuna in the auction, just one-twentieth of what he paid a year earlier despite signs the species is in serious decline. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Sushi restaurateur Kiyoshi Kimura paid 7.36 million yen (about \$70,000) for a 507-pound (230-kilogram) bluefin tuna in the year's celebratory first auction at Tokyo's Tsukiji market on Sunday, just 5 percent of what he paid a year earlier despite signs that the species is in serious decline. Kimura's record winning bid last year of 154.4 million yen for a 222-kilogram

(489-pound) fish drew complaints that prices had soared way out of line, even for an auction that has always drawn high bids. Kimura also set the previous record of 56.4 million yen at the 2012 auction. The high prices don't necessarily reflect exceptionally high fish quality.

"I'm glad that the congratulatory price for this year's bid went back to being reasonable," said Kimura, whose Kiyomura Co. oper-

ates the popular Sushi-Zanmai restaurant chain. Environmentalists say growing worldwide consumption of bluefin tuna is leading to its depletion, and that those in charge of managing fisheries for the species are failing to take responsible action to protect it. Japanese eat about 80 percent of all bluefin tuna caught worldwide, though demand is growing as others acquire a taste for the tender, pink and red flesh

of the torpedo-shaped speedsters of the sea. Stocks of all three bluefin species — the Pacific, Southern and Atlantic — have fallen over the past 15 years amid overfishing. Stocks of bluefin caught in the Atlantic and Mediterranean plunged by 60 percent between 1997 and 2007 due to rampant, often illegal, overfishing and lax quotas. Although there has been some improvement in recent years, experts say the outlook for the species is still fragile. According to a stock assessment released last year by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, the bluefin tuna population is at less than 4 percent of its unfished size.

"The population has effectively been decimated," said Amanda Nickson, director for global tuna conservation for The Pew Environment Group. "Over 90 percent of bluefin tuna are caught before they reach reproductive age. You have to wonder if this remotely sustainable." So far, governments and management bodies have failed to take measures to protect the species that reflect the seriousness of its decline, she said. There were 1,729 tuna sold in Sunday's first auction for 2014, according to data from the city government, down from 2,419 last year. The 32,000 yen (\$305) per kilogram paid for the top fish this year compares with 700,000 yen per kilogram last year. □

India building collapse kills 14; dozens trapped

M. NAGVENKAR
Associated Press

PANAJI, India (AP) — A five-story building under construction collapsed in the southern Indian state of Goa, killing at least 14 workers and leaving dozens more feared trapped under the rubble, police said. Army soldiers were deployed Sunday to help rescuers and firefighters sift through the enormous pile of concrete and dust, as

the chance of finding survivors dwindled a day after the structure crumpled. Authorities were trying to determine how many people were at the construction site when the building collapsed Saturday afternoon in Canacona, about 70 kilometers (44 miles) from the state capital of Panaji, police Superintendent Shekhar Prabhudessai said. Witnesses said about 40 workers were at the site. "It was like an earthquake

when the building fell," witness Ramesh Naik said. "You could not see what exactly had happened because of the dust." Prabhudessai said the cause of the collapse had not been determined. Building collapses are common in India, as massive demand for housing and lax regulations often encourage builders to cut corners by using substandard materials or add unauthorized extra floors. □

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Cubans aghast at car prices as new law kicks in

ANNE-MARIE GARCIA

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP)—Talk about sticker shock!

Cubans are eagerly flocking to Havana car dealerships as a new law takes effect eliminating a special permit requirement that has greatly restricted vehicle ownership in the country. To their dismay on Friday, the first day the law was in force, they found sharply hiked prices, some of them light years beyond all but the most well-heeled islanders.

A new Kia Rio hatchback that starts at \$13,600 in the United States sells for \$42,000 here, while a fresh-off-the-lot Peugeot 508 family car, the most luxurious of which lists for the equivalent of about \$53,000 in the U.K., will set you back a cool \$262,000.

"Between all my family here in Cuba and over in Miami, we couldn't come up with that kind of money," said Gilbert Losada, a 28-year-old musical director. "We're going to wait and see if they lower the prices, which are really crazy. We're really disappointed."

Cuba's Communist-run government traditionally has placed huge mark-ups on retail goods and

services paid for with hard currency, a policy that amounts to a tax on people who can afford such goods. The practice applies to everything from dried pasta, to household appliances, to Internet access.

The astronomical sticker

Research Center.

"There's a lot more money to be made at lower price points," Peters said. "It's a short-sighted tax-man's mentality. ... Paradoxically, they mark it up so much that they're not going to make any money. But that's the mentality."

chase a new or used car from state-run dealerships. Permission took months or years to obtain, resulting in a black market in which car buyers would often quickly flip them for a big profit.

The new law eliminates the need for a permit, but does

matic missions and foreign entities to import vehicles.

The Ferrari-like price schedules for even mundane new cars are a signal that automotive scarcity and high demand will likely continue to reign in Cuba, which is famous for the 1950s American cars that still rumble through the streets long after they became museum pieces elsewhere.

Because replacing a car is so difficult, those lucky enough to own a finned Detroit classic or a boxy Russian import go to great lengths to keep them on the road as long as possible, swapping in makeshift parts and resorting to creative soldering.

At a used car dealership in western Havana on Friday, there were a few relatively affordable options.

A 1997 BMW was the cheapest vehicle and the first to sell shortly after the dealership opened at 8 a.m. It went for \$14,457 to a young man who declined to talk to reporters, so it wasn't known many miles it had previously logged.

But even many of the used cars had eye-popping asking prices, such as a 2009 Hyundai minivan that listed for \$110,000.

"Let's see if a revolutionary worker who lives honorably on his salary can come and buy a car at these prices," said Guillermo Flores, a 27-year-old computer engineer. "This is a joke on the people."

In the past, permit holders typically bought used vehicles, often former rentals with high odometer readings that went for around \$5,000-\$8,000. New imports generally sold at about a 100 percent markup before. There was no explanation for the sudden, across-the-board spike in prices.

Most Cubans still earn government salaries that average around \$20 a month, though some make significantly more as musicians, artists, employees of foreign companies and diplomats and doctors sent on foreign missions. Many others get financial support from relatives overseas. □



A car dealership worker, right, and a boy clean a used Chinese Geely for sale at a government-run dealership in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014. This car once was for sale for \$5,000 dollars, but the price has risen to as much as \$30,000, after a new law took effect eliminating a special permit requirement that has greatly restricted vehicle ownership in the country.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

prices on the cars will likely mean fewer sales and the state leaving money on the table, noted Philip Peters, a longtime Cuba analyst and president of the Virginia-based Cuba

Havana legalized the sale of used cars by private individuals in 2011. But longstanding rules remained in place requiring Cubans to obtain a Transportation Ministry permit to pur-

not allow Cubans to import automobiles directly. The government retains its monopoly on that, and alone decides a vehicle's market value. Some exceptions will still exist allowing diplo-

Mexico jet crash kills 1, injures vigilante leader

GUSTAVO RUIZ

Associated Press

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)

— A small plane crashed in western Mexico, killing one man and injuring four other people, including an outspoken doctor who leads a vigilante group, authorities said Sunday.

The prosecutor's office in Michoacan state said it is investigating what it described as an accident caused by a mechanical failure. The Mexican attorney general's office also launched a probe into the cause of the crash.

The four injured passengers included Dr. Jose Manuel Mireles, a key leader of an armed effort by residents to force drug gangs out of their com-

munities. An unidentified man died at a hospital.

The crash quickly spread fear among other vigilantes and residents in western Mexico because it came hours after one of the groups seized a Michoacan town, sparking a shootout that killed a man. Magdalena Guzman, spokeswoman of Michoacan attorney's office, said the plane took off from Guadalajara on Saturday afternoon and was logged to land in the rural community of Tepalcatepec, where Mireles works as a doctor and heads a group of armed citizens standing up to the Knights Templar cartel.

Guzman said it is unclear why the plane went down

in the town of La Huacana, about 90 miles further south and east from the planned destination.

"They may have changed their path after taking off," Guzman said. Mireles was flown with a head injury and a dislocated jaw to Michoacan's capital of Morelia, where he was reported in stable condition. Two other men and a woman were also injured in the crash. Mireles had lived 10 years with his family in Modesto, Calif., where he volunteered for the Red Cross before returning to his native Michoacan. He has scored some victories in a 10-month effort to kick out the Knights Templar from the lime-growing valley

that surrounds Tepalcatepec. Aligned with other self-defense groups, his men have taken control of some towns and expelled drug traffickers who kidnap and extort people to make money. On Saturday, more than 100 vigilantes arrived at the town of Paracuaro in pickup trucks and SUVs and erected a checkpoint at the main entrance. They disarmed some police officers out of suspicion they were working with traffickers. Michoacan authorities say a man was killed in a gun battle after the vigilantes seized the town. The man has not been identified as a member of either a drug cartel or a self-defense group. □



Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino



PALM BEACH - Recently two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba were honored at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors to Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tour-

ism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Jack and Debra Cottrell of Rock City Falls, New York, and Michael and Karen Hartman of Cherry Hill New Jersey. Both couples

are loyal guests of the Marriott Resorts and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the employees at the Marriott are like a family to them and the Resort is their

home away from home. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with friends of the Cottrell's and Ms. Keirsin Tjonpiangi representing the Aruba Marriott Resorts. □

U.S. FOL Supports Local Children's Programs



WILLEMSTAD - Volunteers from the U.S. Forward Operating Location (US FOL) donated more than 80 volunteer hours and 127 Christmas gifts over the holidays in support of local Children's programs at Fuik for Fundashon Amiguanan di Cristo and for the children of Siloam Children's Orphanage Hospice. The gifts were individually given to the children by the US FOL volunteers. Personnel from the US FOL often donate time and resources to various "not-for-profit" organizations on the island in order to express appreciation for the hospitality received from the citizens of Curacao. □



At The Casino at the Radisson: Lucky winners celebrate the New Year with extra cash in their pockets!



PALM BEACH – This past holiday season saw a ton of visitors at the Casino at the Radisson, celebrating the holidays as well as their jackpot winnings. Seen here, one lucky and very happy winner, all the way from Sao Paulo, Brazil, with a whopping jackpot prize of \$7,290.00.

Also happy to pose for a picture with her winnings, local visitor Barbara Figueroa Henriquez was playing the popular Gaminator machine when she hit the jackpot. Distracted by her husband, Barbara was surprised when her own machine lit up, announcing her Sizzling 7 jackpot of

\$2,000.00. Delighted with their winnings, Barbara's husband declared the Casino at the Radisson to be their favorite casino on the island, saying: "To be a winner you have to visit the Casino at The Radisson hotel." A New Year means new opportunities to win at The



Casino at the Radisson. The Bingo Progressive Jackpot stands at \$ 45,282.55 and counting, the largest progressive on the Island.

The Bad Beat Jackpot reached \$16,960.86, while the Caribbean Stud Poker jackpot was offering up to \$20,213.30. □

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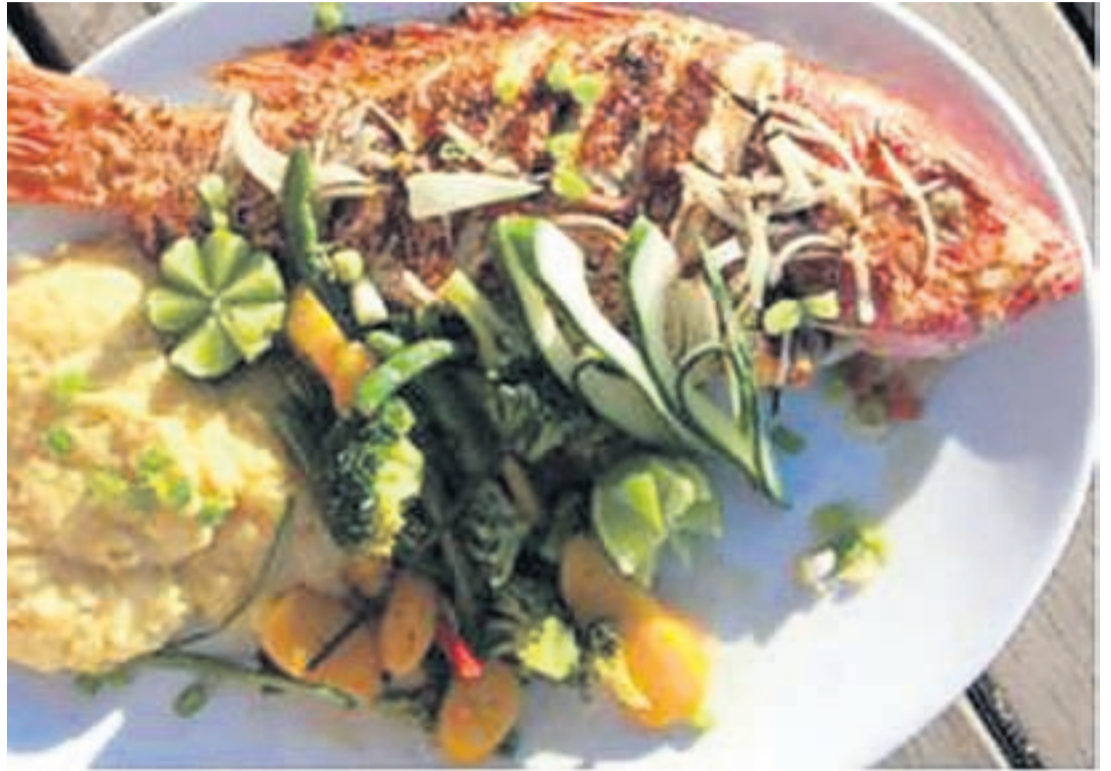
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Both sixth seeds win wild-card games

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Three teams won away games on wild-card weekend, with the San Francisco 49ers capping the victorious road shows with a 23-20 win at frigid Green Bay on Sunday.

Phil Dawson's 33-yard field goal as the game ended lifted the defending NFC champs into the divisional round, where they will play at Carolina. That figures to be much warmer than the near-zero temperatures at Lambeau Field.

"It is not that cold," Niners quarterback Colin Kaepernick said. "It is all mental." Meanwhile, the Chargers and Saints further proved the old adage for the NFL playoffs: "Just Get In."

San Diego took away the ball four times in a 27-10 win at Cincinnati on Sunday that extended the Bengals' losing ways in the postseason to 23 years. The Chargers outscored Cincinnati 20-0 in the second half, handing the Bengals their first home loss this season.

The Chargers next play at AFC top seed Denver next Sunday.

On Saturday, NFC sixth



Green Bay Packers cornerback Tramon Williams (38) breaks up a pass intended for San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis (85) during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

seed New Orleans won 26-24 at Philadelphia. The last time both sixth seeds won was in 2010, when the Packers wound up winning the Super Bowl.

New Orleans got its first road playoff victory since entering the league in 1967.

The only home winner, Indianapolis staged a sensational comeback against Kansas City to win 45-44 Saturday.

The Saints visit top-seeded Seattle, where they lost 34-7 during the season, next Saturday. The Colts go to New England, the AFC's No. 2 seed, next Saturday night.

49ers 23, Packers 20

At Green Bay, Kaepernick threw for 227 yards and ran for another 98. Kaepernick escaped a blitz on third-and-8 and scrambled for an 11-yard gain to the 27 with 1:13 left. The 49ers (13-4) ran down the clock and the 15-year veteran, in his first season in San Francisco, made the winner.

Mason Crosby's 24-yard field goal tied it at 20 for the Packers (8-8-1) with 5:06 left.

Continued on Page 20



Mikaela Shiffrin, of the United States, celebrates on podium after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom, in Bormio, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2013.

Associated Press

A trial run for Sochi: Shiffrin wins in snow, rain

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

BORMIO, Italy (AP) — If this was a trial run for the Sochi Olympics, Mikaela Shiffrin passed with flying colors. The American teenager fought through soft snow, rain and deep ruts — exactly the type of conditions she could face in Sochi next month — to win her second World Cup slalom of the season Sunday. "It's always a big confidence booster to have good skiing in different conditions," Shiffrin said.

"I never wanted to be a racer who could only win on hard snow or just soft snow, or just a steep pitch or just a flat. I want to be really good in all-around conditions and getting a win today has given me a lot of confidence that I can ski out of ruts in the second run." Located near the Black Sea, the Alpine resort of Rosa Khutor that will host the skiing races at the Olympics is known for varying weather conditions. "Sochi can be challenging with the weather and ev-

everything," U.S. Alpine director Patrick Riml said. "So she (Shiffrin) showed today that she's very well prepared." The 18-year-old Shiffrin led by 0.03 seconds after the opening run and ending up winning by 0.13 ahead of Maria Pietilae-Holmner of Sweden for the sixth victory of her career. With all six of her wins in slalom Shiffrin took over sole possession of second on the all-time slalom list among American women, trailing only Tamara McKinney's nine victories.

Nastasia Noens of France moved up from 13th after the first run to finish third, 0.62 behind.

Shiffrin was only 0.01 ahead of Pietilae-Holmner at the final checkpoint but she excelled on the steep finishing gates to add to her lead.

Snow was falling on the top part of the course and rain at the bottom in the opening run, with spectators holding up umbrellas. During the second run, it was snowing at both the top and bottom. □

Grizzlies dominate 2nd half to beat Pistons 112-84

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

-- Jon Leuer matched a career high with 23 points, Zach Randolph had 16 points and 16 rebounds, and the Memphis Grizzlies dominated the second half to beat the Detroit Pistons 112-84 on Sunday afternoon.

Memphis had six players in double figures, including 15 from former Piston Tayshaun Prince.

Greg Monroe led Detroit with 19 points, while Andre Drummond added 15 points and 14 rebounds.

The Pistons lost their fourth straight and fifth in a row at home. They are now 4-10 after a 10-10 start to the season.

The Grizzlies continued to alternate wins and losses, going 3-2 in their last five without back-to-back victories or defeats.

Both teams were short-handed in the backcourt. Detroit's Rodney Stuckey (shoulder) missed his sec-

ond straight game, while Tony Allen (hand) was added to a lengthy Memphis injury list.

The Pistons led 56-51 at half-time, but the Grizzlies took control in the third quarter, outscoring Detroit 28-11 to take a 12-point lead into the fourth.

Detroit struggled when coach Maurice Cheeks was forced to use Chauncey Billups and Will Bynum together in the backcourt late in the third and early in the fourth. The two have played together in Stuckey's absence without much success. Billups is showing the signs of his 37 years, while Bynum has been ineffective for most of the season.

Detroit has struggled in the final quarter in the past month, and it was no different Sunday. Memphis outscored the Pistons 48-18 in the game's last 19 minutes.



Memphis Grizzlies forward Jon Leuer (30) goes to the basket against Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Associated Press

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Football star Eusebio dead at 71 of heart failure

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Eusebio, the Portuguese football star who was born into poverty in Africa but became an international sporting icon and was voted one of the 10 best players of all time, has died aged 71, his longtime club Benfica said.

He died Sunday, the club announced on its website, without providing further details.

Eusebio died at home of heart failure at 3.30 a.m. (0330 GMT) Sunday, his biographer, Jose Malheiro, said. "His health was very poor," Malheiro told reporters. Eusebio was admitted to hospital several times over the past year for the treatment of heart and respiratory problems.

Eusebio's coffin was to be taken to Benfica's Stadium of Light later Sunday, public broadcaster Radiotelevisao Portuguesa reported. Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portugal captain who plays for Real Madrid, commented on his Facebook page, "Always eternal Eusebio, rest in peace." Former Portugal captain Luis Figo, the 2001 FIFA world player of the year, tweeted, "The



In this Feb. 17, 2010 file photo, Eusebio is photographed during an interview with the Associated Press, in New York.

Associated Press

king!! Great loss for us all! The greatest!!"

"On this sad day of (Eusebio's) death ... I prefer to look upon him as immortal," Chelsea's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho told RTP.

Eusebio da Silva Ferreira became affectionately known as the Black Panther for his athletic prowess and clinical finishing that made him one of the world's top scorers during his heyday in the 1960s for Benfica and the Portuguese national team.

Perhaps his biggest accomplishment was to lead Portugal to a third-place finish at the 1966 World Cup, but his agility and speed made him one of

Europe's most dangerous forwards for most of a career that lasted two decades.

He was awarded the Ballon d'Or in 1965 as Europe's player of the year and twice won the Golden Boot — in 1968 and 1973 — for being top scorer in Europe. According to football's world governing body FIFA, he scored 679 goals in a total of 678 official games.

The Portuguese government decreed three days of national mourning, with flags flying at half-mast. The Portuguese Football Federation ordered a minute's silence ahead of Sunday's Portuguese Cup games.

Tributes poured in from around the football world. FIFA President Sepp Blatter tweeted "Football has lost a legend. But Eusebio's place among the greats will never be taken away" while German great Franz Beckenbauer also took to Twitter to comment "One of the greatest football players ever has passed away."

None of Eusebio's goals were more famous than those he netted against North Korea in the quarterfinals of the 1966 World Cup. With Portugal trailing 3-0,

Eusebio inspired his team's turnaround with four goals and an eventual 5-3 victory.

While Portugal went on to lose to host and eventual champion England in the semifinals, Eusebio became even more popular at home when he wept openly as he left the field following the defeat.

He finished as the tournament's top scorer with nine goals. In 1998, a panel of 100 experts gathered by FIFA named him in its International Football Hall of Fame as one of the sport's top 10 all-time greats.

"Look, there are only two black people on the list: me and Pele,"

Eusebio commented on the honor, referring to the Brazilian great who was a friend. "I regard that as a great responsibility because I am representing Africa and Portugal, my second homeland."

Eusebio was born in Maputo, the Mozambican capital, during the Second World War when the south-east African country was still a Portuguese colony. He came from a poor family but sparked for his local team and was lured by Benfica to Portugal when

he was 18.

Known for his unpretentious and easy manner as well as his courage and ball skills, his popularity in Portugal was such that in 1964, when Italian clubs offered to buy Eusebio for sums that were astronomical for the time, the country's then-dictator, Antonio Salazar, decreed that the player was a "national treasure" — meaning that he could not be sold abroad.

"A football genius and example of humility, an outstanding athlete and generous man,

Eusebio was for all sports fans and for all Portuguese an example of professionalism, determination and devotion to the colors of the national jersey and of Benfica," Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho said in a statement.

In a playing career unparalleled in Portugal, Eusebio was a cornerstone of the Benfica team that won back-to-back European titles in the early 1960s.

In an epic European Cup final against Real Madrid in 1962, when a first-half hat trick by Ferenc Puskas looked like it would be enough to secure the trophy for the Spanish club

NFL Roundup

Continued from Page 18

San Francisco has won seven straight. Next up, the NFC South champion Panthers, who beat the 49ers 10-9 on Nov. 10 at San Francisco.

"They got us the first time," All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman said, "we need to get them this time."

Chargers 27, Bengals 10
San Diego, which has won five straight, barely got into the playoffs, needing an overtime victory against Kansas City's subs last weekend. Now, the Chargers (10-7) head to AFC top-seeded Denver (13-3), where they won 27-20 last month — the Broncos' only home loss this season. The original AFL teams have never met in the playoffs. "We talked all week about

this being the fifth round," quarterback Philip Rivers said, "so the sixth round will be in Denver next week. We know Denver is a great team ... we'll be ready for the challenge. Go see if we can score one more point than they can."

The Chargers also avenged their most recent loss, a 17-10 home defeat to Cincinnati, which finished 11-6 but is 0-5 in the postseason under coach Marvin Lewis. Saints 26, Eagles 24

At Philadelphia, Shayne Graham gave his 10th team something to celebrate with four field goals, including a 32-yarder on the final play to win. New Orleans had been 0-5 on the road in the postseason, but a strong running game, solid defense and the leadership of Drew Brees.

"As much as we hate hearing that talk, we kind of



San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers (17) is sacked by Cincinnati Bengals safety Chris Crocker in the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

brought it on ourselves," Brees said of questions about the Saints (12-5) winning on the road and in the cold — whether during the

season or in the playoffs. "We lost our last three on the road."

Thanks to Graham, who was signed 2½ weeks ago

when longtime kicker Garrett Hartley was released, they get a chance to start on playoff winning streak away from the Big Easy.

"It really doesn't matter happened last year or any years past," Brees said. "We're not living off the glory or the mistakes of the past." The Eagles (10-7) went from last to first in the NFC East under first-year coach Chip Kelly and have plenty to build around.

"I know that this season is over, but we're going to keep working and growing as a team," said quarterback Nick Foles, who led the NFL in passer rating. "I love playing here, I love this city, I love this team, and I love this organization because I know the heart of it. The heart of it is the heart of Philadelphia. Like Coach Kelly said, 'We fight,' and we're going to keep fighting." □

Penguins rally by weary Winnipeg, 6-5

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) -- Evgeni Malkin woke up Sunday morning, texted Pittsburgh Penguins coach Dan Bylsma and told him he was good to go after missing nine games because of an ailing left leg.

Sure looked like it.

The Russian star scored twice and added an assist, helping the Penguins rally past Winnipeg 6-5 to extend their home winning streak to 12 straight. James Neal added two goals and Jussi Jokinen scored for the third time in the last two games as Pittsburgh's second line kept the Penguins in it until Matt Niskanen's slap shot with 7:22 remaining won it.

"It's always a big boost when you get a guy like (Malkin) back," Neal said. "Myself and Jussi were obviously excited. We try to feed off that. It looked like he didn't miss a beat out there. He was his normal self."

So were the Penguins after an atypical start. Pittsburgh trailed by two early

but came roaring back to remain unbeaten at home since Nov. 13. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots, including three sprawling saves in the final minute.

Bylsma won his 232nd game with Pittsburgh, moving into a tie with Eddie Johnston for the most victories in franchise history.

"They got up on us," Bylsma said. "But there has been with this team, finding a lot of different ways to win hockey games."

The Penguins almost always do against Winnipeg. The Jets have lost each of their last 13 trips to Pittsburgh.

Evander Kane had two goals and an assist for Winnipeg. Jacob Trouba, Blake Wheeler and Mark Scheifele also scored for the Jets, who remained winless in Pittsburgh since 2006. Al Montoya made 33 saves, but couldn't make an early 2-0 lead stand up.

"That's one of the most talented teams in the league," Winnipeg's Olli Jokinen said. "You can't try to outscore them. You have to try to find a way to play the good defense



Penguins' Evgeni Malkin (71) cannot get to a rebound in front of Winnipeg Jets goalie Al Montoya (35) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

and make sure you get the puck on their goal line and on a few goals they made us look pretty bad."

Malkin did his part, hardly looking rusty in his first game in three weeks.

His 10th goal of the season put Pittsburgh on the board and his 11th tied it at 5 midway through the third period as the Eastern Conference-leading Penguins extended their home dominance. Pittsburgh's 12-game run at Consol Energy Center matches that 12-game run the club put together between Feb. 22-March 30, 2013.

This one, however, was

harder than most.

The Jets, less than 24 hours removed from a dismal 4-1 loss to Boston, hardly looked like a team overwhelmed by Pittsburgh's home-ice advantage or the return of Malkin and Penguins defenseman Kris Letang, who missed 10 games with an elbow injury.

Winnipeg took the lead just 1:47 into the game as Trouba pounced on an Olli Jokinen rebound and flipped it into the open net. Trouba's fourth goal of the season also stopped a streak of 438:19 of game time in which the Penguins had been either in the lead

or tied at home, a streak that dates to Nov. 27.

Pittsburgh had a chance to even it late in the first period when Sidney Crosby was interfered with on a breakaway. His penalty shot was knocked out of harm's way by Montoya, leaving Crosby without a penalty shot goal during his career (0 for 4).

Scheifele made it 2-0 with just 4 seconds left in the first on a knuckler that Fleury couldn't get a handle on.

All it did was set the stage for a furious second period in which the teams combined to score seven times on just 24 shots. □

Celski qualifies for 3rd event at Sochi Olympics

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

KEARNS, Utah (AP) — Apollo Anton Ohno tipped J.R. Celski as a future star four years ago.

With Ohno now retired and doing TV commentary, Celski has stepped into the void as the dominant American short track speedskater.

He won the 1,000 meters at the U.S. Olympic trials Sunday, giving Celski three individual events to compete in at the Sochi Games.

Celski heads to his second Olympics aiming to add to the pair of bronze medals

he won at the 2010 Vancouver Games, when Ohno was ending his career as America's most decorated Winter Olympian.

"I've gotten the experience, but this time is completely different for me," Celski said. "Mentally, physically I'm healthy. I'm going to ride that momentum. I look forward to doing some damage over there."

Celski lost just one race during the four-day trials at the Utah Olympic Oval, finishing second by half a blade length to Chris Creveling in the first 1,000 final on Sun-

day.

Celski came back to easily win the second 1,000 final of the day.

He'll be joined on the men's team by Eddy Alvarez, Creveling, 2010 Olympian Jordan Malone and Kyle Carr.

Celski and Alvarez qualified for three events — 500, 1,000 and 1,500.

Malone fell in the quarterfinals of the second 1,000 and withdrew from the ensuing rounds knowing that he had accumulated enough points to secure an Olympic berth. He strained



J.R. Celski, left, and Chris Creveling, right, compete in the men's 1,500 meters during the U.S. Olympic U.S. short track speedskating trials Friday, Jan. 3, 2014, in Kearns, Utah.

Associated Press

a hip tendon and bruised ribs in the fall.

Jessica Smith won both of the women's 1,000 finals, and she'll skate in three individual events in Sochi. She competed with a small

tear in her left hip that she has deferred surgery on until after the Olympics.

Joining her on the women's team are 2010 Olympian Alyson Dudek and Emily Scott. □

Hewitt upsets Federer to win Brisbane title

JOHN PYE,
AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) —

With the Fanatics in bright yellow and raucously chanting for Lleyton Hewitt to stay on top of Roger Federer, the Brisbane International final had the surreal feel of a journey back in time.

It wouldn't have seemed out of context a decade ago, when Hewitt spent 80 weeks atop the tennis rankings and Federer was yet to win a Grand Slam title.

But Hewitt's 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 win Sunday over his longest-standing rival on tour was clearly an upset, and delivered him his first title since 2010.

The 32-year-old former No. 1s have met 27 times dating back to 1999, and Hewitt has now improved his record to nine wins against the 17-time Grand Slam champion.

Federer was broken three times and committed 22 unforced errors in the first set, making some uncharacteristically basic mistakes including an air swing and two shanked forehands.

He recovered in the second set and then had break-point chances in Hewitt's first three service games in the deciding set, but couldn't get the vital breakthrough when he needed it most.

"The way you tough it out



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia celebrates after winning the men's final match 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 against Roger Federer of Switzerland during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

... congratulations," Federer said in a court-side interview. He added later that Hewitt did "a good job hanging around."

"But I should have taken advantage already earlier, so I have some regrets," he said. "It's unfortunately one of those matches that got away from me."

Hewitt received the trophy from Australian great Rod Laver, a regular at the Aus-

tralian Open final presentations involving Federer over the years.

"It's been a while since I won a trophy. For me to get it from you really means a lot," Hewitt said.

"I don't need to congratulate Roger, he gets congratulated every week when he's up here for finals!"

Hewitt had not won a title since he beat Federer in

the final at Halle in 2010 and his most recent tournament victory on home soil was the 2005 Sydney International; the same year he lost the Australian Open decider to Marat Safin.

That result at Halle ended a 15-match losing streak to Federer. Now he has won two of their past three matches in the twilight of an injury-affected career that peaked when he won the 2001 U.S. Open and 2002 Wimbledon titles. Federer won the first of his four Australian Open titles in 2004, and ascended to the No. 1 ranking soon after. He remained in top spot for 4 1/2 years.

Hewitt's ranking was projected to reach the low 40s with the win. He finished last season at No. 61 in another disrupted season after toe, foot, hand, hip and back injuries kept him off the tour for long periods between 2007 and the start of 2013.

"We've been through a rough four or five years, five different surgeries, it's been tough," Hewitt said.

Hewitt was the youngest qualifier ever for the Australian Open, aged 15 when he made the main draw in 1997, and won his first ATP title in Adelaide the following year at 16 — the youngest winner in a decade on the ATP tour.

He said coming back at double that age to win another Australian tourna-

ment was almost on par.

"Obviously (the Adelaide title) is where it all started for me. I was 16. I was in my home town ... it's hard to beat that," he said. "But then winning here at a new tournament ... I've won nearly every tournament there is to win in Australia."

"Yeah, to beat possibly the greatest player in the final means a lot. So it's very hard to split them."

Of his remote chance of being the first Australian since 1976 to win his home Open, Hewitt said the win over Federer "just gives me a lot more confidence going out there believing in how well I'm hitting the ball at the moment and that I can matchup with the best guys."

Federer, who didn't make a Grand Slam final last year for the first time since 2002 and is now ranked No. 6, said the Brisbane tournament gave him a good idea of how his preparations are going for the Australian Open.

"I have a clear idea what I need to work on, and I have a clear idea where my mind and body is at," he said. "I'm very hungry and eager to attack the Australian Open next week."

Serena Williams retained her title in Brisbane on Saturday with a win over Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka. □



Haval driver Carlos Sousa and co-pilot Miguel Ramalho, both of Portugal, race through a creek during the first stage of the Dakar Rally between the cities of Rosario and San Luis in San Luis, Argentina, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

SAN LUIS, Argentina (AP) — Carlos Sousa of Portugal and Joan Barreda Bort of Spain led the Dakar Rally

after Sunday's first stage in Argentina.

Sousa topped the car division, 11 seconds ahead

Sousa, Barreda Bort lead after 1st stage of Dakar

of Orlando Terranova of Argentina and 47 in front of Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar. Two of the pre-race favorites were just behind — Carlos Sainz of Spain was in fifth place and 11-time champion Stephane Peterhansel of France was sixth.

In motorcycles, Barreda Bort was 37 seconds ahead of fellow Spaniard Marc Coma and 1:40 in front of defending bike champion Cyril Despres of France.

The two-week rally, with

more than 400 entered, will wind through Argentina into Bolivia, and then head south to the finish in Valparaiso, Chile.

Monday's second leg goes from San Luis to San Rafael, before it begins to head north for the third stage.

The rally, being run for the sixth straight year in South America, could draw protests in Bolivia. Aymara Indians fear the stages across the world's largest salt flat will damage the environment, with crowds leaving

rubish and racers leaving behind deep creases.

The Aymara have vowed to block the Jan. 12-13 legs of the rally. However, the event has received the support of President Evo Morales, who is an Aymara. The Salar de Uyuni is 11,800 feet (3,600 meters) above sea level and stretches over more than 4,000 square miles (11,000 square kilometers). It's a breeding ground every November for South American flamingos. □

Wave of wearable gadgets expected at CES event

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Will 2014 be remembered as the year wearable computing took off?

Upstart entrepreneurs and major manufacturers such as Samsung, Qualcomm and Sony certainly hope so.

Gadgets that you snap, buckle or fasten to your body are already marketed to fitness freaks obsessed with tracking every possible metric their bodies produce. There are countless smartwatches for tech nerds who'd rather glance at their wrists to check messages than reach for their smartphones. And thousands of people are already seeing the world differently with the help of the Internet-connected eye-wear, Google Glass.

Even with the possibilities these devices offer today, gadget lovers can expect technology companies to stretch the wearable concept further this week in Las Vegas at the International CES event, the industry's

annual trade show.

Several companies are expected to unveil wearable devices that are easier to use, extend battery life, and tap into the power of gestures, social networks and cloud computing.

The wearables wave is still in its early phases. Many of the technologies on display will offer a glimpse of the future — not necessarily products that are ready for the mainstream consumer. These new gadgets are “like the first generation of the iPod,” says Gary Shapiro, chief executive of the Consumer Electronics Association, the group that has hosted the trade show since 1967. “It was bulky and it wasn't that pretty. Look what happened. It got slimmer. It got better.”

Industry analysts' estimates for the growth of wearables are rosy. Research firm IHS says the global wearables market — which also includes health products like hearing aids and heart-rate monitors — could top \$30 billion in 2018, up from nearly \$10 billion at the end

of 2013.

While some of the growth will come from an aging population that requires more health-related monitoring at home, devices like the Fitbit Force activity band — which tracks a wearer's steps, calories burned, sleeping patterns and progress toward fitness goals — are also expected to gain popularity as desk-bound workers look for new ways to watch their waistlines.

At this week's show, companies are likely to introduce improvements in wearable screens and battery life, says Shane Walker, an IHS analyst. The two are linked because the more a device tries to do, the more battery power it consumes. This creates demand for innovative low-power screens, but also for ways to interact with devices that don't rely on the screen, such as using hand gestures and voice.

“With wearable technology, it's all about battery consumption,” Walker says. What's driving the boom



In a Friday, Dec. 27, 2013 file photo, Stanford offensive coordinator Mike Bloomgren, wearing Google Glass, answers questions from the media during a news conference, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Global tech spending seen slipping 1 pct in 2014

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Consumer Electronics Association estimates that global spending on technology will slip 1 percent this year to \$1.06 trillion as the lower average selling price of smartphones and tablets offsets unit growth in markets like China.

The decline is off the peak of \$1.07 trillion estimated this year.

Steve Koenig, the association's director of industry analysis, issued the forecast at the opening of the annual International CES gadget show on Sunday.

The retreat doesn't reflect less consumer appetite for what Koenig called the “dynamic duo” of tech gadgets. Spending on smartphones and tablets is still expected to account

for some 43 cents of every dollar spent on technology this year.

But the average price of smartphones, for example, will fall from \$444 in 2010 to an estimated \$297 this year, despite the number of smartphones sold rising to 1.21 billion up from 1.01 billion.

“These lower-end devices are what's required to penetrate most deeply into these emerging markets,” he said.

Smartphones and tablets remain such key drivers of technology spending that they are eating into other categories of devices like point-and-shoot cameras, video cameras, portable GPS devices and handheld gaming devices.

However, within other categories of devices there are a few pockets of growth,

including wearable devices.

Smartwatch sales are expected to be 1.5 million units globally this year, up from 1 million in 2013, said Shawn DuBravac, the association's chief economist.

“This is a very nascent market. We're still looking for that killer application for that particular device,” he said.

Ultra HD televisions, which roughly quadruple the number of pixels of a high-definition set, are also seen taking off.

There were 60,000 such sets sold in the U.S. alone last year, a number expected to hit 485,000 this year, the association said. However, that's still a small number compared to the nearly 40 million TVs sold in the U.S. each year, DuBravac said. □

in wearable device innovation is the recent widespread availability of inexpensive sensors known as microelectromechanical systems (MEMS). These are tiny components like accelerometers and gyroscopes that, for instance, make it possible for smartphones to respond to shaking and for tablets to double as steering wheels in video games.

There are also sensors that respond to pressure, temperature and even blood sugar. Toronto-based Bi-onym Inc. will show off its Nymi wristband at CES. The gadget verifies a user's identity by determining his or her unique heartbeat. The technology could one day supplant the need for passwords, car keys and wallets.

Waterloo, Ontario-based Thalmic Labs Inc. plans to show off how its MYO armband can be used as a remote control device to operate a quadcopter drone. The band responds to electricity generated in forearm muscles as well as arm motions and finger gestures.

Co-founder Stephen Lake says the MYO is more akin to a mouse or keyboard that controls activities than the latest line of smart wristbands that simply track them.

“We've seen this shift away from traditional computers

to mobile devices,” Lake says. “Our belief is that trend will continue and we'll merge closer with technology and computers. New computer-human interfaces are what can drive these changes.”

Wearables may not gain broad acceptance until sensors advance to a point where they can track more sophisticated bodily functions than heart rate, says Henry Samueli, co-founder of Broadcom Corp., the company that makes wireless connectivity chips for everything from iPhones to refrigerators. Monitors that measure blood sugar, for instance, still require test strips and pin-pricks.

“If you can monitor your blood chemistry with a wearable, now there we're talking about something pretty compelling,” Samueli says. “Then I think the market will take off in a big way.”

Companies are also expected to tweak the business models for wearable gadgetry as the devices become more mainstream. Fitness-focused wearables could one day help lower your health-care premiums if your insurer can verify your exercise regime. Always-on wristbands that know who you're with — and their preferences — could become vehicles for location-based restaurant advertising. □

SmartMoney: 2014 Is Looking A Lot Like 2013

JAMES B. STEWART

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After a banner year for stocks and a rocky one for bonds, market forecasters are remarkably consistent in their forecasts for 2014: more of the same.

Most forecasters are warning stock investors not to expect another year of 30 percent gains, as there was in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index in 2013. (The average forecast is for a 6 percent rise in the S&P 500, according to Bloomberg.) But the two analysts I selected for this column - Abby Joseph Cohen of Goldman Sachs and Bill Miller of Legg Mason, both of whom were remarkably accurate about 2013 - said another year of strong double-digit gains would not shock them.

"We could easily see gains of more than 20 percent" in stocks, Miller told me. "And the market wouldn't be overpriced at that level."

In the many years I've been surveying experts for their predictions for the coming year, I cannot recall another time when optimism about the stock market, the economy and corporate profits was so widespread.

As is pessimism about the bond market.

The stock market's relentless rise last year seems to have tamed all but a few perma-bears. When the Federal Reserve said in



Bill Gross, bond expert and founder of the investment firm Pimco, who correctly predicted "ashes" in the stockings of bond investors in 2013, outside the company's television studio in Newport Beach, Calif. After a banner year for stocks and a rocky one for bonds, market forecasters are remarkably consistent in their forecasts for 2014: more of the same.

(Stephanie Diani/The New York Times)

September that the economy was too weak for the central bank to taper its purchase of securities, stocks went up. And when the Fed said in December that it would begin to taper - stocks still went up. The only thing that seemed to stop stocks' inexorable rise was Congress' self-destructive gridlock, and even that didn't last long. Still, such unanimity may be the most worrisome portent for 2014. As Karl Case, emeritus professor of economics at Wellesley College and a co-founder of the S&P/Case-Shiller index of housing prices, put it, "When everyone expects something to happen, that's when it doesn't."

But neither he nor anyone else I consulted this year was willing to break ranks with the consensus.

"It gives me pause" said Cohen, senior investment strategist for Goldman Sachs and president of the Global Markets Institute, referring to the bullish herd mentality that has gripped Wall Street. "But there's no reason to be a contrarian just for the sake of being contrarian. I look at the fundamentals. Even after such a strong year in 2013, I think it will continue."

Cohen was almost exactly right a year ago, when she predicted that the S&P 500 would end 2013 at 1,787. (It closed at 1,848.) At the time, her forecast seemed wildly bullish, especially

since stocks were at near record levels and had registered gains four years running.

"There was a significant mispricing of assets a year ago," she said, referring to both stock prices (too low) and bonds (inflated).

That's not as obvious now that stocks have gained.

"There's something artificial about current asset prices," she said, "which have been largely driven by liquidity. But we've begun a transition to valuations that are driven by fundamentals." And those, she said, are strong. She cited an expanding U.S. economy, higher job creation, gains in labor productivity, lower energy prices and subdued inflation.

"This will provide staying power," she said.

Miller cited many of the same economic fundamentals as Cohen. At the same time, he saw little danger on the horizon.

"Recession? An oil price spike? Sudden tightening by the Fed? I don't see any of that," he said. "The path of least resistance is for the market to go higher."

And he, too, wouldn't be surprised to see the market's price-to-earnings ratio expand, driving up prices.

"Historically, in the late stages of a bull market, stocks reach very high multiples, in the range of 20 to 22," he said.

While he doesn't set a numerical target for the S&P 500, he said he expected returns at least "in the low to midteens," and wouldn't be surprised at gains of more than 20 percent.

"There's really no catalyst for a down market," he said.

Miller's fund scored in 2013 by investing in Netflix, Best Buy, Delta Air Lines, E*Trade Financial and Genworth, which he considered wildly undervalued.

"You won't find many of those in today's market," he said, although he's keeping an eye on J.C. Penney as a potential turnaround story. "With even a little good news it will jump 50 percent." □

Jos. A. Bank amends its poison pill requirements

RACHEL ABRAMS

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Jos. A. Bank Clothiers tightened its poison pill requirements this weekend, the latest move in its continuing takeover battle with Men's Wearhouse.

The company announced it had reduced the ownership threshold of its shareholder rights plan to 10 percent from 20 percent, meaning that if Men's Wearhouse or any other unsolicited buyer acquires 10 percent of Jos. A. Bank's stock, the company will

issue a large number of shares to existing shareholders. The move will help fortify Jos. A. Bank against future takeover bids from Men's Wearhouse, its larger rival that made a \$1.5 billion bid in November. The two companies have been fighting to take each other over for months. In October, Men's Wearhouse rejected its smaller rival's unsolicited \$2.3 billion bid, putting its own 10 percent shareholder rights plan in place. In what's known as a Pac-Man maneuver, the

company then turned the tables and tried to acquire Jos. A. Bank. In a statement announcing the change to its shareholder rights plan, Jos. A. Bank said that matching Men's Wearhouse's poison pill threshold protected investors by "leveling the playing field." It also said that the "hostile" actions of Men's Wearhouse were "not in the best interest of the company's shareholders."

The company declined to comment beyond a statement. A spokesman for

Men's Wearhouse declined to comment. Both retailers share a number of overlapping owners, including BlackRock, one of both companies' largest shareholders, with more than an 8 percent stake in each. Other overlapping shareholders include the mutual fund company Vanguard and the hedge fund Eminence Capital. If investors saw cost-saving and synergies between both companies, they could potentially help push a deal through. □

New solar craze on Wall Street propels startup

**DIANE CARDWELL
JULIE CRESWELL**

© 2014 New York Times

The first inklings of the idea came to Elon Musk and a cousin in an RV heading to the Burning Man festival in 2004.

Solar energy, they agreed, could be big.

But not even Musk, the billionaire behind the Tesla electric car, could have foreseen the solar-power craze that is sweeping Wall Street. He and his cousins Peter and Lyndon Rive are riding a wave of exuberance over the industry and their young business, SolarCity.

The company - the nation's largest provider of rooftop solar systems, with more than 80,000 customers - has not made a dime. And, frankly, no one quite seems to know when, or if, it will.

But SolarCity has captured investors' imaginations and become a potent symbol of a stock market ascent that makes the vertigo-inducing heights of Twitter seem tame. SolarCity's share price, which closed at \$59.27 Friday, has soared more than sevenfold since it went public, and the company, which did not exist eight years ago, is valued at roughly \$4.9 billion. Depending on whom you talk to, the rise of SolarCity and similar companies is either a sure sign that solar power is finally having its day, or that yet another mania has gripped the markets.

SolarCity faces formidable challenges. It is trying to outrun rivals in a race to transform the power industry. Utilities are furiously working to undo the incentives that have fueled the solar industry's growth. A generous federal tax credit is set to shrink in a few years. It has attracted the attention of regulators, who have questioned the way it values the rooftop systems.

And, because of its stock price, it must continue to feed Wall Street's appetite. □

Selling social media clicks becomes big business

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Celebrities, businesses and even the U.S. State Department have bought bogus Facebook likes, Twitter followers or YouTube viewers from offshore "click

farm" record label interest. "Anytime there's a monetary value added to clicks, there's going to be people going to the dark side," said Mitul Gandhi, CEO of seoClarity, a Des Plaines, Illinois, social media marketing firm that weeds out

their user agreement and can also prompt account closures. Google and YouTube "take action against bad actors that seek to game our systems," said spokeswoman Andrea Faville.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, a city

the numbers.

In one case, its fan tally rose from about 10,000 to more than 2.5 million.

Sometimes there are plausible explanations for click increases.

For example, Burger King's most popular city was, for a few weeks this year, Karachi, Pakistan, after the chain opened several restaurants there.

While the Federal Trade Commission and several state attorney generals have cracked down on fake endorsements or reviews, they have not weighed in on clicks. Meanwhile, hundreds of online businesses sell clicks and social media accounts from around the world.

BuyPlusFollowers sells 250 Google+ shares for \$12.95. InstagramEngine sells 1,000 followers for \$12. AuthenticHits sells 1,000 SoundCloud plays for \$9.

It's a lucrative business, said the president and CEO of WeSellLikes.com.

"The businesses buy the Facebook likes because they're afraid that when people go to their Facebook page and they only see 12 or 15 likes, they're going to lose potential customers," he said. The company official spoke on condition of anonymity, saying he recently moved his company offshore to avoid litigation or cease-and-desist notices.

In Indonesia, a social media-obsessed country with one of the world's largest number of Facebook pages and Twitter users, click farms are proliferating.

Ali Hanafiah, 40, offers 1,000 Twitter followers for \$10 and 1 million for \$600. He owns his own server, and pays \$1 per month per Internet Protocol address, which he uses to generate thousands of social media accounts. Those accounts, he said, "enable us to create many fake followers."

During an interview at a downtown Jakarta cafe, Hanafiah — wearing a Nike cap, blue jeans and a white T-shirt — said large social networks can boost a business' public profile. □



A Twitter app on an iPhone screen in New York. Celebrities, businesses and even the U.S. State Department have bought bogus Facebook likes, Twitter followers or YouTube viewers from offshore "click farms," where workers tap, tap, tap the thumbs up button, view videos or retweet comments to inflate social media numbers.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

farms," where workers tap, tap, tap the thumbs up button, view videos or retweet comments to inflate social media numbers.

Since Facebook launched almost 10 years ago, users have sought to expand their social networks for financial gain, winning friends, bragging rights and professional clout. And social media companies cite the levels of engagement to tout their value.

But an Associated Press examination has found a growing global marketplace for fake clicks, which tech companies struggle to police. Online records, industry studies and interviews show companies are capitalizing on the opportunity to make millions of dollars by duping social media.

For as little as a half cent per each click, websites hawk everything from LinkedIn connections to make members appear more employable to Soundcloud plays to influ-

phony online engagements.

Italian security researchers and bloggers Andrea Stroppa and Carla De Micheli estimated in 2013 that sales of fake Twitter followers have the potential to bring in \$40 million to \$360 million to date, and that fake Facebook activities bring in \$200 million a year. As a result, many firms, whose values are based on credibility, have entire teams doggedly pursuing the buyers and brokers of fake clicks. But each time they crack down on one, another, more creative scheme emerges.

When software engineers wrote computer programs, for example, to generate lucrative fake clicks, tech giants fought back with software that screens out "bot-generated" clicks and began regularly sweeping user accounts.

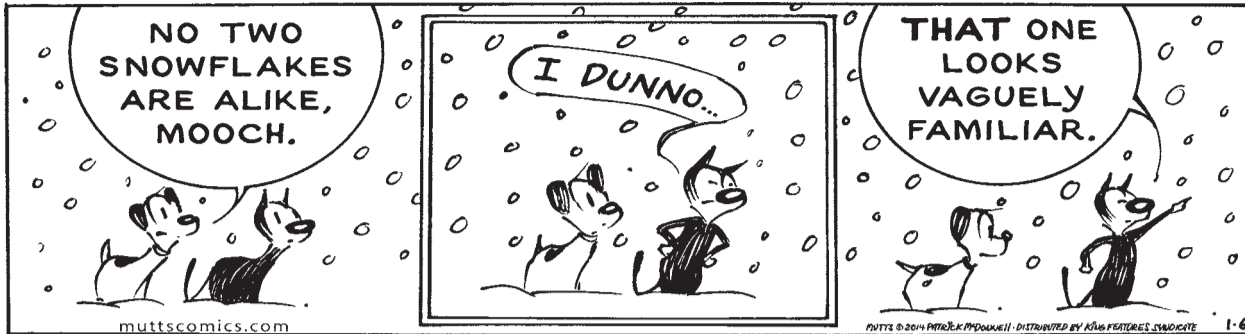
LinkedIn spokesman Doug Madey said buying connections "dilutes the member experience," violates

of 7 million in South Asia, is an international hub for click farms.

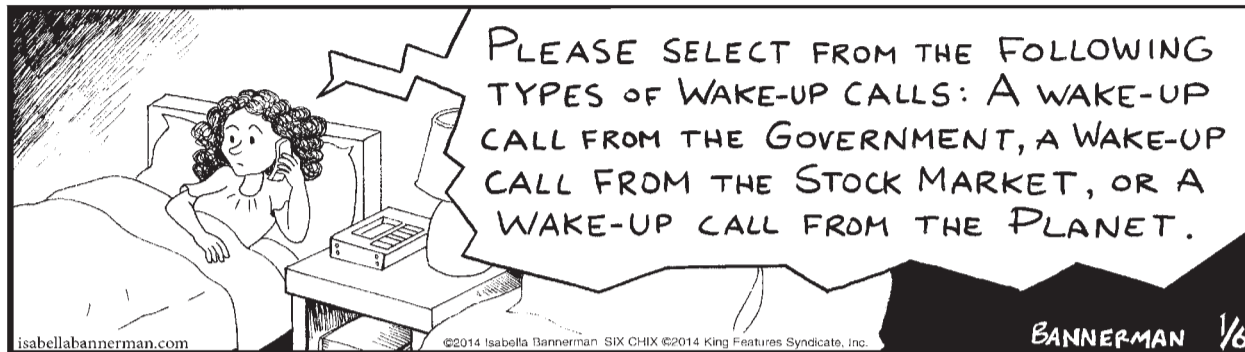
The CEO of Dhaka-based social media promotion firm Unique IT World said he has paid workers to manually click on clients' social media pages, making it harder for Facebook, Google and others to catch them. "Those accounts are not fake, they were genuine," Shaiful Islam said.

A recent check on Facebook showed Dhaka was the most popular city for many, including soccer star Leo Messi, who has 51 million likes; Facebook's own security page, which has 7.7 million likes; and Google's Facebook page, which has 15.2 million likes. In 2013, the State Department, which has more than 400,000 likes and was recently most popular in Cairo, said it would stop buying Facebook fans after its inspector general criticized the agency for spending \$630,000 to boost

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



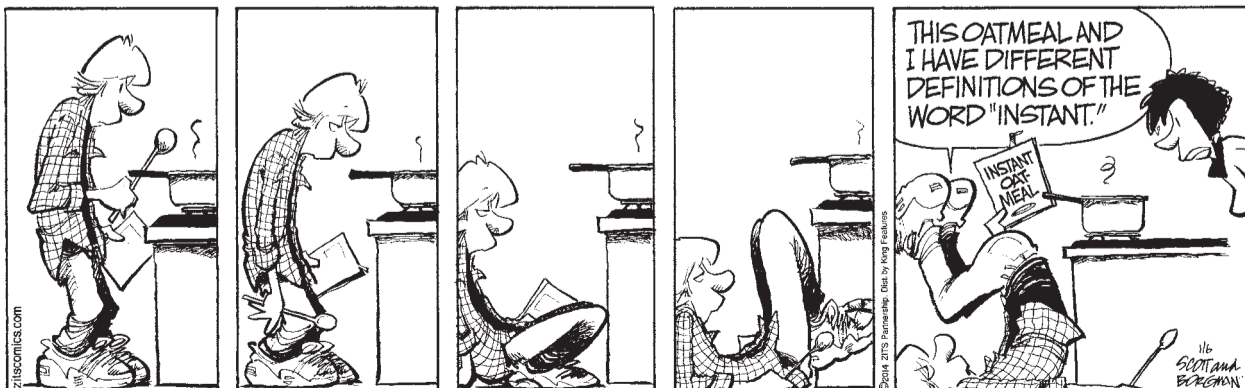
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		1			4	
	2					3		9
1			2	7		8		
		5		8		4		
3			4		5			7
		9		7		1		
	8		9	3				1
4		6					5	
	1			6		2		

Difficulty Level ★

1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

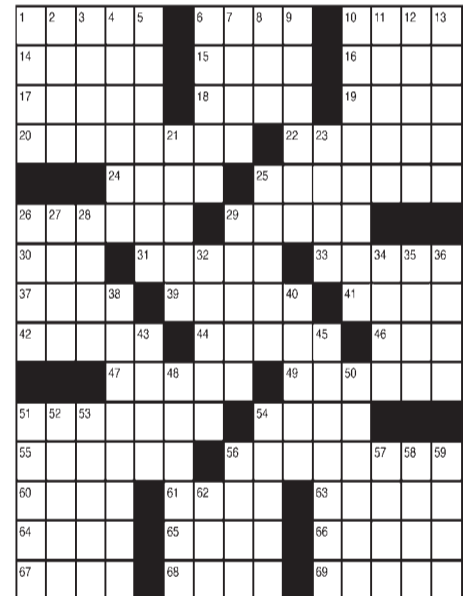
2	7	9	6	1	8	4	3	5
5	3	1	7	4	9	2	6	8
4	6	8	3	2	5	1	7	9
1	4	6	2	9	3	5	8	7
3	5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6
8	9	7	5	6	4	3	1	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	7	9	3
9	8	3	4	7	2	6	5	1
7	1	5	9	3	6	8	2	4

ACROSS

- Verizon store purchase
- Cancer the ___; Zodiac sign
- Misfortunes
- Rants and ___; carries on
- Tardy
- Dinner, for one
- Chris of tennis
- Length times width
- One of the Three Bears
- Cranky; hard to get along with
- Shiny, as a photo
- Namesakes of Adam's wife
- Straight beaters, in a poker game
- ___ few; elite
- Vote into office
- Rooster's mate
- Striped animal
- Eccentrics
- Dobbin's dinner
- Most terrible
- Ice-skating oval
- Mistaken
- Phys. therapy
- Island garland
- Seeped out
- Diminish
- Fall month
- Uninteresting
- Composer Frédéric ___
- War victim
- Pigeon coop
- Common metal
- Market
- ___-friendly; easy to operate
- ___ does it!"; cry of disgust
- Hayes or Hunt
- Cincinnati team
- Doughnut center
- Cruise ship stops, perhaps

DOWN

- Get ready, for short



Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BONE	AFIRE	REST
APEX	BIDEN	EVER
KEEP	UBOAT	VILE
ENDLESS	DEMILLE	
ALE	PERIL	
CLAIM	JAR	SEAMS
HYMN	AIR	REDSEA
IRA	ARBITER	HAL
NESTLE	AID	HELL
ASSET	SHE	FUSSY
RACES	BAD	
STIRRED	MEDDLES	
WADI	SABER	LOGE
AXLE	ATILT	EDGE
BIER	RENTS	DESK

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- 2 ___ one's cake and eat it too
- 3 All ___; finished
- 4 Case of the jitters
- 5 Actor Emilio
- 6 Elegance
- 7 Uncommon
- 8 Feasted
- 9 Snoopy, for one
- 10 Phony
- 11 Dog walker's rein
- 12 Memory ___; senior moment
- 13 Kills
- 21 Extend one's subscription
- 23 Good fortune
- 25 In a ___; instantly
- 26 Purina Dog ___
- 27 Listen
- 28 "___ bigger and better things!"
- 29 Went astray
- 32 Drill or awl
- 34 Lubricates
- 35 Leg joint
- 36 Dermatologist's concern
- 38 Peeping Toms
- 40 Ankle
- 43 Asian desert
- 45 John or James
- 48 TV brand
- 50 Schedules
- 51 Take place
- 52 Selected
- 53 Carried
- 54 "Divine Comedy" poet
- 56 Fuel, for some
- 57 Lounge about
- 58 Cedar or fir
- 59 Strong urges
- 62 Greek letter

New York State is set to loosen marijuana laws

**SUSANNE CRAIG
JESSE MCKINLEY**

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ALBANY, N.Y. - Joining a growing group of states that have loosened restrictions on the use of marijuana, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York plans this week to announce an executive action that would allow limited use of the drug by those with seri-

mild as back ache. It will allow 20 hospitals across the state to prescribe marijuana to patients with cancer, glaucoma, or other diseases that meet standards to be set by the New York State Department of Health.

While Cuomo's measure falls well short of full legalization, it nonetheless moves New York, long one

even more often than Cuomo's, medical marijuana was approved by his predecessor, Jon S. Corzine, but was put into effect only after he set rules limiting its strength, banning home delivery, and requiring patients to show that they have exhausted conventional treatments. The first of six planned dispensaries has opened.



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo at the State University of New York campus in Old Westbury, N.Y. Joining a growing group of states that have loosened restrictions on the use of marijuana, Cuomo plans to announce an executive action that would allow limited use of the drug by those with serious illnesses, according to state officials. (Michael Nagle for The New York Times)

ous illnesses, according to state officials.

The shift by Cuomo, a Democrat who had long resisted legalizing medical marijuana, comes as other states are taking increasingly liberal positions on marijuana - most notably Colorado, where thousands have flocked to purchase the drug for recreational use since it became legal to do so Jan. 1.

Cuomo's plan will be far more restrictive than the laws in Colorado or California, where medical marijuana is available to people with conditions as

of the nation's most punitive states for those caught using or dealing drugs, a significant step closer to policies being embraced by drug-reform advocates and lawmakers elsewhere. New York hopes to have the infrastructure in place this year to begin dispensing medical marijuana, although it is too soon to say when it will actually be available to patients.

Cuomo's shift comes at an interesting political juncture. In neighboring New Jersey, led by Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican whose presidential prospects are talked about

Meanwhile, New York City's new mayor, Bill de Blasio, had quickly seemed to overshadow Cuomo as the state's leading progressive politician.

The governor's shift also comes as advocates for changing drug laws have stepped up criticism of New York City's stop-and-frisk police tactics, as well as the city's stringent enforcement of marijuana laws, which resulted in nearly 450,000 misdemeanor charges from 2002 to 2012, according to the Drug Policy Alliance, which advocates more liberal drug laws. □

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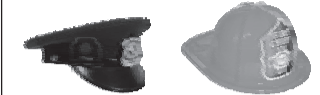
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27 eagle deaths in Utah caused by West Nile Virus

MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The mystery illness that has killed 27 bald eagles in Utah this month appears to be West Nile Virus, state officials said Tuesday.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources said in a statement that laboratory tests done on some of the first birds found indicate they died from West Nile Virus.

Since Dec. 1, officials have found the birds in northern and central Utah. All were either dead or were ill and later died during treatment.

The eagles displayed similar symptoms, including head tremors, signs of seizures, weakness in legs and feet and a paralysis of the bird's wings.

Beyond the 27 that have died, officials said five eagles were being treated at a wildlife rehabilitation center Tuesday. They appeared to be responding well to treatment, officials said.

Utah wildlife officials aren't sure how the eagles caught the virus, but they suspect the birds contracted it by eating Eared Grebes that were infected with the virus and died recently.

West Nile Virus, which is spread by mosquitoes, usually infects eagles and



In this undated photo released by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, shows a bald eagle, in Utah.

other birds during warmer months.

Mark Hadley, a Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

spokesman, said the grebes, a duck-like aquatic

bird, start arriving in Utah in October, when mosquitoes are still active.

"It's possible that those grebes got bit by mosquitoes after they got here when they arrived in the fall, and it just took a while for them to die."

The bald eagles began arriving in November and appeared to have died relatively quickly once they contracted the virus, Hadley said.

About 750 to 1,200 bald eagles begin migrating to Utah each November and stay until March, officials said.

During those winter months, the eagles get most of their food by eating dead animals, such as grebes.

Leslie McFarlane, a wildlife disease coordinator with DWR, said in a statement that there's still a chance a few more eagles could die, but because the migration period for grebes is almost over,

it's likely that the risk to eagles will soon drop.

The birds do not pose a risk to human health but people should not handle eagles if they find them, wildlife officials said.

Hadley said that in the 17 years he's been with DWR, he has never seen this many eagles die off, particularly in such a short period of time. □

Israel researcher: Elusive Biblical blue found

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli researcher says she has identified a nearly 2,000-year old textile that may contain a mysterious blue dye described in the Bible, one of the few remnants

of the ancient color ever found.

Naama Sukenik of Israel's Antiquities Authority said Tuesday that recent examination of a small woolen textile discovered in the

1950s found that the textile was colored with a dye from the Murex trunculus, a snail researchers believe was the source of the Biblical blue. Researchers and rabbis have long searched for the enigmatic color, called tekhelet in Hebrew. The Bible commands Jews to wear a blue fringe on their garments, but the dye was lost in antiquity.

Sukenik examined the textile for a doctorate at Bar-Ilan University and published the finding at a Jerusalem conference Monday. □

Florida space center home to secret spacecraft

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Kennedy Space Center will be the testing site for a top-secret Air Force space plane.

Boeing is working on the spacecraft, and the company announced Friday that it will convert a former space shuttle building for the X-37B orbital test vehicle program.

An undisclosed number of workers will recover, refurbish and relaunch the 29-foot(8.8-meter)-long unmanned spacecraft.

The Air Force launched the most recent flight of the unmanned spacecraft from Florida's Space Coast more than a year ago.

It was the second flight for the original X-37B space plane. The craft circled the planet for seven months in 2010. A second X-37B spacecraft spent more than a year in orbit.

The mystery machines are about one-quarter the size of NASA's old space shuttles and can land automatically on a runway. □

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RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Sandra Bullock

shared the painful results of Googling herself, Meryl Streep shadowboxed onstage, and Tom Hanks braced for awards season's "celebrity mule train" at the year's first glitzy Hollywood gala.

Matthew McConaughey, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams and Bradley Cooper were among the stars who cracked jokes and praised one another Saturday night at the opening of the Palm Springs International Film Festival, a desert warm-up of sorts for more closely watched industry events in coming months.

Honors were announced well in advance and the ceremony wasn't televised,

lessening pressure on winners and allowing for self-effacing, sometimes lengthy acceptance speeches. The festival is celebrating its 25th year but it's only relatively recently become a star-studded stop on the awards circuit.

U2's Bono spoke passionately about artist activism and the fight against AIDS. Bruce Dern reveled in industry praise for his "Nebraska" after a half-century career, saying: "A bunch of you seem to have gotten together and to have said, 'Bruce Dern can play.'" Presenters included Gary Oldman, Ewan McGregor, Jane Fonda and Idris Elba.

Bullock, also nominated for Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards for her performance as an astronaut in "Gravity," delighted the crowd of over 2,000 by reading online comments about herself.

"Julia (Roberts),

apparently you and I are in a dispute over George Clooney. We talked about this. It's shared custody and we both are fine with it," she joked.

McConaughey, honored for his lead role in "Dallas Buyers Club," also proudly noted his movie "Mud" and small part in "The Wolf of Wall Street."



Sandra Bullock poses backstage at the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Palm Springs, Calif.; and Tom Hanks arrives at the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, in Palm Springs, Calif.

Associated Press

ing films. We've got stories of isolation, survival, history, con men, scams. A lot of these films, they walk that tightrope. They have that combination of two very hard things to have — import and entertainment."

There will be no shortage of additional opportunities to celebrate said movies, as Hanks noted in accepting the fest's chairman's award for his leading roles in "Captain Phillips" and "Saving Mr. Banks."

He and many others gathered Saturday will reunite at the Golden Globes next weekend in Beverly Hills and the SAG awards the following weekend.

"To be invited to the Palm Springs International Film Festival is an honor and a delight beyond words and sometimes beyond reasoning," Hanks said. "It means without a doubt that the holidays have come to an end and for a few lucky people the celebrity mule train is just beginning." □

"I had a sensational year of acting," he said, wearing a bowtie and shimmering gold tuxedo jacket.

Streep, who stars alongside Roberts in "August: Osage County" and is also up for Globe and SAG honors, was given the festival's icon award.

"I don't feel like an icon. Most of the days I feel like 'I can't,'" she said. But, she allowed, jabbing fists toward the crowd, "I feel like I'm an example now in my dotage of the fact that you just can't put those old gals out to pasture. We've got a lot of stuff still to say."

There was self-congratulation all around at the quality of awards season films, from "12 Years A Slave," whose director Steve McQueen was honored, to "American Hustle," whose cast received an ensemble award. Several actors noted that they had been catching up on colleagues' movies with DVD screeners and visits to the theatre.

"We put out a damn good product," McConaughey said. "We've got challeng-

Romney accepts apology from MSNBC host

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney says he has accepted an apology from an MSNBC host who joked about a Christmas picture that included the 2012 Republican presidential candidate's adopted, African-American grandson.

Romney told "Fox News Sunday" that he sees Melissa

Harris-Perry's apology as sincere and is ready to move on. He says everyone — himself included — makes mistakes and the Romney family has forgiven MSNBC.

During a segment, Harris-Perry asked her guests to talk about a photo showing infant Kieran Romney with his grandparents and their 21 other grandchildren, all of them white.

One guest on her Sunday show, actress Pia Glenn, sang "one of these things



This March 15, 2013 file photo shows former Massachusetts Gov., and 2012 Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney at the 40th annual Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md.

Associated Press

just isn't the same."

Harris-Perry later said her intention was to celebrate

diversity, but the segment took an unexpected and offensive turn. □

NY critics pick 'Llewyn Davis' as 2013's best film

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Society of Film Critics has chosen "Inside Llewyn Davis" as the best picture of 2013 at its annual meeting in New York.

The society's 56 voting members are movie critics from around the U.S. The critics held their 48th annual awards voting meeting at the Film Society of Lincoln Center on Saturday. The group also presented its best director award to Joel and Ethan Coen. They directed "Inside Llewyn Davis," the story of a fic-



tional folk singer in Greenwich Village in 1961.

The group named Oscar Isaac best actor for "Inside Llewyn Davis." Cate Blanchett was named best actress for the Woody Allen film "Blue Jasmine."

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of two members who died in 2013: Roger Ebert and Stanley Kauffmann. □

This film image released by CBS Films shows Oscar Isaac in a scene from "Inside Llewyn Davis."

Associated Press



This file image provided by Disney shows Elsa the Snow Queen, voiced by Idina Menzel, in a scene from the animated feature "Frozen."

Associated Press

Disney's 'Frozen' freezes out 'Paranormal' spinoff

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On a wintry weekend, Disney's "Frozen" retook the box-office top spot with \$20.7 million, freezing out the horror spinoff "Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones."

Paramount's "The Marked Ones" debuted in second place with \$18.2 million, a total that includes Thursday night screenings, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film is a stand-alone story spun off from the lucrative, low-budget horror franchise "Paranormal Activity," the fifth of which will be released in October. But it wasn't able to overcome Disney's animated "Frozen," which has been a hit for family audiences for the last seven weeks. It has now surpassed \$600 million worldwide, making

it the second highest Disney Animation release, behind "The Lion King." It will soon pass that film's \$312 million domestic haul, too. It's extremely rare for a film to lead the box office in its seventh weekend, a feat accomplished by the likes of "Avatar" and, to go further back, "Legends of the Fall." It's rarer still for a film to retake the box-office lead so late in its theatrical run. The last movie to do so was Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004, according to box-office tracker Rentrak.

Another hold-over, Warner Bros.' "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," came in third with \$16.3 million in its fourth week of release after narrowly topping the busy Christmas weekend box office. Like "Frozen,"

Peter Jackson's second installment of his "Hobbit" trilogy has benefitted from the lengthy holiday movie-going season. Its domestic cumulative total is \$229.6 million. The snow and icy temperatures battering the Midwest and Northeast likely tempered the weekend's box-office business.

"Everyone probably suffered a little bit from the weather," said Don Harris, head of domestic distribution for Paramount. "It

looked like no matter what movie it was, it was half a million to a \$1 million less on Friday and Saturday than you would have been expecting, just based on what the norms were."

"The Marked Ones," made for just \$5 million and starring a largely Hispanic cast, was the lone new wide release in the marketplace, as the large batch of late December releases looked to separate themselves from the pack. □

Steven Seagal says he may run for Arizona governor



U.S. actor Steven Seagal looks on as he waits for a news conference of U.S. Congressional delegation to Russia in U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, June 2, 2013.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Action-movie star Steven Seagal says he is considering a run for Arizona governor.

The "Marked for Death" actor told KNXV-TV that he is considering a shot at the state's highest office and has had a talk about the bid with the self-proclaimed toughest sheriff in America. The 61-year-old made the comments while talking about his newly released reality series "Steven Seagal - Lawman: Maricopa County." Seagal teamed up with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio for the show that was shot in Arizona and airs on cable TV's Reelz Channel.

The martial arts expert is a member of Arpaio's posse, made up of 3,000 unpaid civilians. He also has been deputized with sheriff's offices in New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana and says he wants to increase border security. □

Weed: Been There, Done That



DAVID BROOKS
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For a little while in my teenage years, my friends and I smoked marijuana. It was fun. I have some fond memories of us all being silly together. I think those moments of uninhibited frolic deepened our friendships. But then we all sort of moved away from it. I don't remember any big group decision that we should give up weed. It just sort of petered out, and, before long, we were scarcely using it. We didn't give it up for the obvious health reasons: that it is addictive in about one in six teenagers; that smoking and driving is a good way to get yourself killed; that young people who smoke go on to suffer IQ loss and perform worse on other cognitive tests.

I think we gave it up, first, because we each had had a few embarrassing incidents. Stoned people do stupid things (that's basically the point). I smoked one day during lunch and then had to give a presentation in English class. I stumbled through it, incapable of putting together simple phrases, feeling like a total loser. It is still one of those embarrassing memories that pop up unbidden at 4 in the morning. We gave it up, second, I think, because one member of our clique became a full-on stoner. He may have been the smartest of us, but something sad happened to him as he sunk deeper into pothead life.

Third, most of us developed higher pleasures. Smoking was fun, for a bit, but it was kind of repetitive. Most of us figured out early on that smoking weed doesn't really make you funnier or more creative (academic studies more or less confirm this). We graduated to more satisfying pleasures. The deeper sources of happiness usually involve a state of going somewhere, becoming better at something, learning more about something, overcoming difficulty and experiencing a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

One close friend devoted himself to track. Others fell deeply in love and got thrills from the enlargements of the heart. A few developed passions for science or literature.

Finally, I think we had a vague sense that smoking weed was

not exactly something you were proud of yourself for. It's not something people admire. We were in the stage, which I guess all of us are still in, of trying to become more integrated, coherent and responsible people. This process usually involves using the powers of reason, temperance and self-control - not qualities one associates with being high. I think we had a sense, which all people have, or should have, that the actions you take change you inside, making you a little more or a little less coherent. Not smoking, or only smoking sporadically, gave you a better shot at becoming a little more integrated and interesting. Smoking all the time seemed likely to cumulatively fragment a person's deep center, or at least not do much to enhance it.

So, like the vast majority of people who try drugs, we aged out. We left marijuana behind. I don't have any problem with somebody who gets high from time to time, but I guess, on the whole, I think being stoned is not a particularly uplifting form of pleasure and should be discouraged more than encouraged.

We now have a couple of states - Colorado and Washington - that have gone into the business of effectively encouraging drug use. By making weed legal, they are creating a situation in which the price will drop substantially. One RAND study suggests that prices could plummet up to 90 percent, before taxes and such. As prices drop and legal fears go away, usage is bound to increase. This is simple economics, and it is confirmed by much research. Colorado and Washington, in other words, are producing more users.

The people who debate these policy changes usually cite the health risks users would face or the tax revenues the state might realize. Many people these days shy away from talk about the moral status of drug use because that would imply that one sort of life you might choose is better than another sort of life.

But, of course, these are the core questions: Laws profoundly mold culture, so what sort of community do we want our laws to nurture? What sort of individuals and behaviors do our governments want to encourage? I'd say that in healthy societies government wants to subtly tip the scale to favor temperate, prudent, self-governing citizenship. In those societies, government subtly encourages the highest pleasures, like enjoying the arts or being in nature, and discourages lesser pleasures, like being stoned. In legalizing weed, citizens of Colorado are, indeed, enhancing individual freedom. But they are also nurturing a moral ecology in which it is a bit harder to be the sort of person most of us want to be. □



A Girl's Escape



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - She was a 13-year-old girl who said she was beaten daily by strangers who forced her to work unpaid in their home, and she wanted to escape.

Marilaine was one of 200,000 or more Haitian children called restaveks, typically serving as unpaid maids in strangers' homes, working for room and board. It is a vast system of child trafficking that is often characterized as a modern form of slavery. I followed Marilaine for a week in Haiti as she tried to flee, find her parents and start life over - and this is her story.

Marilaine grew up in a remote village where no family planning or public schooling is available, one of 12 children to impoverished parents who later separated. As Marilaine tells the story, one day when she was 10 years old, she walked to her father's house to ask him to help pay her school fees. Instead, he dispatched her here to the capital to work as a restavek, a Creole term used to describe child laborers, without even telling her mother.

"My father didn't want to spend money on my school fees," Marilaine explained.

As is common for restaveks, Marilaine slept on the floor and woke up at 5 each morning to clean the house, fetch water and wash dishes. She says she was beaten daily with electrical

cords.

Marilaine was allowed no contact with her family. Once, she says, she tried to run away but was caught and beaten. At school, she often cried, and she had scars on her arms and legs from beatings.

Yet the restavek system isn't always slavery. Sometimes the child gets more food and education than would have been the case in her own family (two-thirds of restaveks are girls). Marilaine says that she was fed properly and that she was also allowed to attend a free afternoon school.

Many Haitian restaveks are treated much worse. One 12-year-old restavek I interviewed said that she rises at 4 each morning to get everything ready for "the princesses," as she calls the teenage girls in the house. Everyone in the house beats her, she says, and they refuse to let her see her mother for fear that she might run away. An aid group called the Restavek Freedom Foundation helped Marilaine escape her home and find refuge in a safe house for restaveks. The mood was festive in the beautiful home as the dozen girls living there cheered Marilaine's arrival and hugged her.

Marilaine picked up a book, telling me that she wasn't allowed to touch books at her old house. She tried on new clothes. She slept in a bed.

But the family that Marilaine had been working for was furious. I visited the woman of the house, and she insisted that she had never beaten the girl and that Marilaine had in effect been kidnapped from her.

The leader of the neighborhood association, Junior Pataud, offered a conflicting defense. "In Haitian culture, it's normal to beat a child," he said. "But that's not the same as mistreatment."

The next day, the neighbors

gathered angrily outside the school Marilaine had attended, blaming it for the girl's escape and threatening to set fire to it unless Marilaine was returned. After hours of tense negotiations, the police averted a riot.

A few days later, I drove for several hours with the police and the Restavek Freedom Foundation to Marilaine's village. When Marilaine stepped out of the car, family members and neighbors were stunned. They had assumed that she had died years ago.

Yet the reunion was a letdown. Marilaine's mom didn't seem at all thrilled to see her daughter again, and Marilaine quickly made it clear that she wanted to return to the safe house in the capital so that she could attend a good school. The police told Marilaine that she would have to stay in the village with her family, and she burst into tears.

The authorities will probably eventually let Marilaine return to the Restavek Freedom Foundation safe house, but the episode was a reminder that helping people is a complex, uphill task - and that the underlying problem behind human trafficking is poverty.

One way to fight such human trafficking would be to provide free and accessible birth control, so that women like Marilaine's mother don't end up with 12 children that they struggle to feed.

Another would be to provide free public education, so that parents don't feel that the only way to get schooling for their children is to send them off as restaveks.

That's why what's at stake in fighting global poverty isn't just poor people's incomes. It's also dignity and freedom - and the right of a girl to grow up in something better than quasi slavery. My New Year's wish: May Marilaine in 2014 finally find freedom and an education. □

Tonight at 8PM at Palm Beach Plaza Mall: Aruba's Majestic Carnival Season Comes To Life!



PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season has started at Aruba's largest mall. The

Aruba Carnival is a thrilling show of over-the-top pagentry, produced by thousands and delighting and

uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it began. Carnival was born in 1954,



as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there. Tonight at 8PM, Palm Beach Plaza Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience



for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show! □

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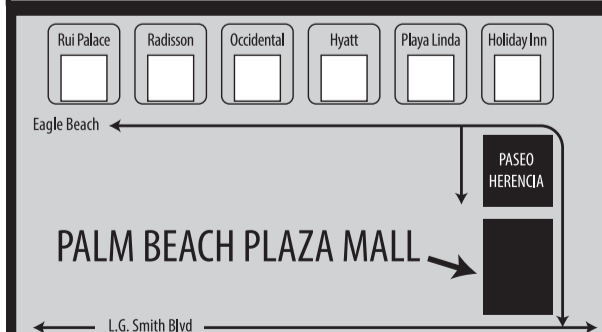
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